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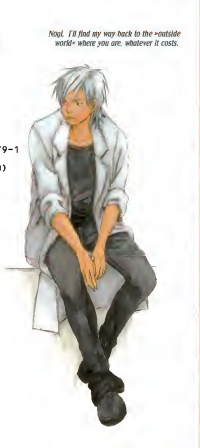

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冬目景

アフタヌーンKC

ハツカネズミの時間

1

アフタヌーン KC379

ハツカネズミの時間

1

冬目景

講談社

Nagi, I'll find my way back to the »outside world« where you are, whatever it costs.

ハツカネズミの時間 1

THE HOUR OF THE MICE

KAI TÔME

冬目景

ハツカネズミの時間 7

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Design 坊工舎

Chapter 1
波紋 #1
RIPPLE

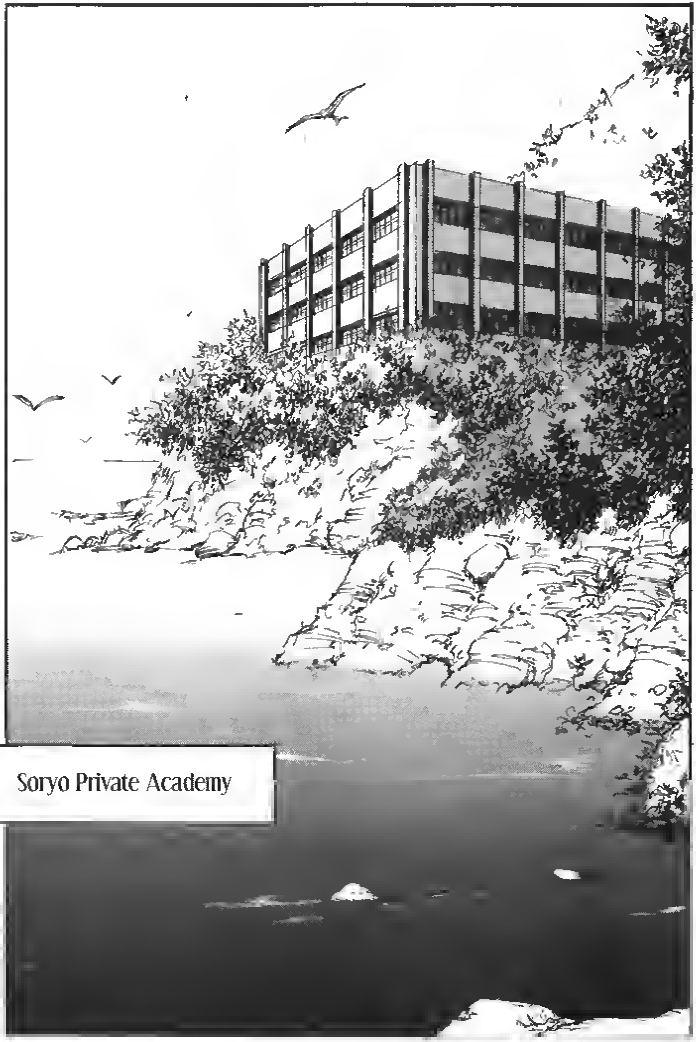
English version
NOMAD SOUL

Translation check
DAVID & DARKFIBRE

Proofreading
ERUTAN

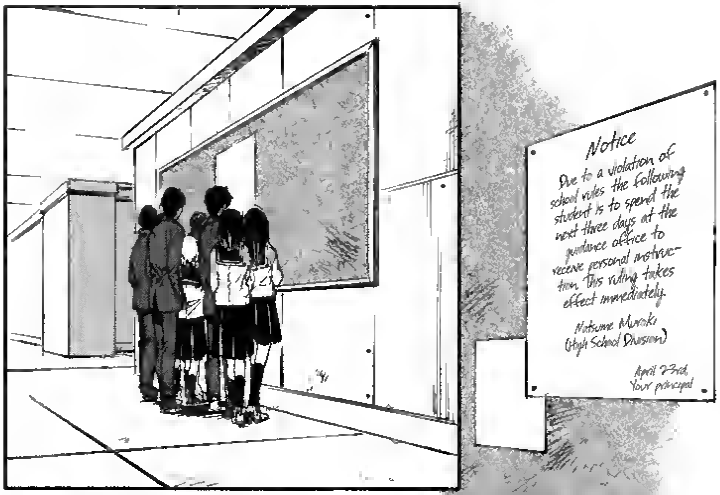
kotonoha.monkey-pirate.com

MAKI
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?
THE SEA.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
NOTHING I'M JUST LOOKING
HMM...
ヒュウ


Soryo Private Academy

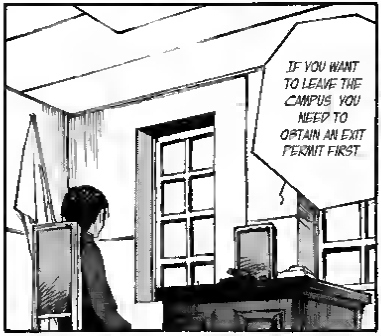
OK, CATCH YOU LATER
I HAVE HISTORY OF MODERN LITERATURE
SO, WHAT'S NEXT?
PHYSICAL OPTICS HERE

[1] School Cafeteria
[1] 学生食堂
DID YOU HEAR SOME COMMOTION OUTSIDE OR SOMETHING?
SAY, LAST NIGHT...
[2] Food card
[2]
食券
HMM. . OH YEAH, I RECALL HEARING SOME VOICES.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
NO . NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM THE WHOLE DAY EITHER.
HAVE YOU SEEN HATSUME TODAY?
HE WASN'T THERE THIS MORNING.

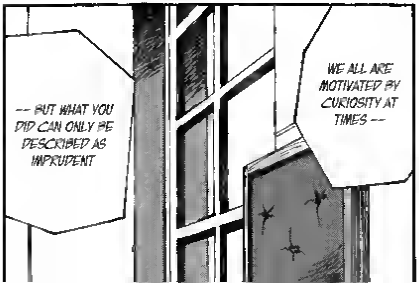

Notice
Due to a violation of school rules the following student is to spend the next three days at the guidance office to receive personal instruction. This ruling takes effect immediately.
Natsume Murata
(High School Division)
April 23rd,
Your principal

HE'S SUCH A FOOL.
HE PROBA-BLY --
-- TRIED TO GO OUTSIDE.
WHAT COULD HE HAVE DONE?

WE ARE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED WITH YOUR CONDUCT THIS TIME, MR. MUROKI

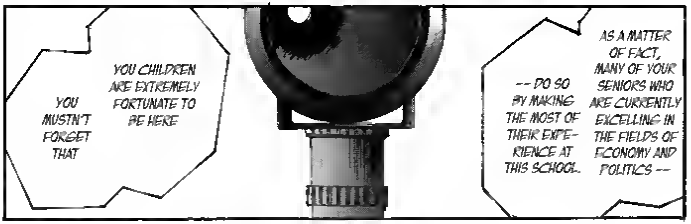

IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE CAMPUS, YOU NEED TO OBTAIN AN EXIT PERMIT FIRST.

YES .. BUT..


-- BUT WHAT YOU DID CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS IMPRUDENT
WE ALL ARE MOTIVATED BY CURIOSITY AT TIMES --

I'M SORRY, SIR. I'M AWARE THAT I MADE A MISTAKE

THIS SCHOOL'S POLICIES AND CURRICULA WERE CREATED SOLELY TO FULFILL THAT RESPONSIBILITY
IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK AFTER YOU AND SEE THAT YOU STAY MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY SOUND
THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS US SO WE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH A SUPERIOR EDUCATION.
THIS SCHOOL WAS CREATED FOR CHILDREN LIKE YOU, CHILDREN BORN WITH EXCEPTIONAL INTELLIGENCE


YOU MUSTN'T FORGET THAT
YOU CHILDREN ARE EXTREMELY FORTUNATE TO BE HERE
-- DO SO BY MAKING THE MOST OF THEIR EXPERIENCE AT THIS SCHOOL.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, MANY OF YOUR SENIORS WHO ARE CURRENTLY EXCELLING IN THE FIELDS OF ECONOMY AND POLITICS --

THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY.
IF YOU WANT TO THROW AWAY WHAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR AND GO BACK TO BEING AN ORDINARY PERSON, WE WON'T STOP YOU

THEY SAY THAT THOSE STUDENTS WHO VIOLATE SCHOOL RULES ARE PUNISHED STRICTLY.
I WONDER IF NATSUME WILL BE ALL RIGHT...
PEOPLE ARE SAYING ALL SORTS OF THINGS...
-- BUT DON'T THEY "JUST" DETAIN OFFENDERS IN THE GUIDANCE OFFICE FOR A FEW DAYS?
WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD CALL THAT A TOUGH PUNISHMENT.
WORD IS THAT THAT PLACE'S LIKE A CELLAR, PITCH-DARK AND ALL.
SUPPOSEDLY, REPEAT OFFENDERS WILL BE EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL.
BUT THIS WAS NATSUME'S FIRST OFFENSE, SO HE'LL PROBABLY BE OK.
I HEARD SOME OF THE STUDENTS WHO WENT INTO THE GUIDANCE OFFICE AFTER BREAKING THE RULES NEVER CAME OUT AGAIN...
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THE OTHER GIRLS WERE SAYING.
AW, COME ON. THAT'S NONSENSE.
LOOK...
IF THERE HAD BEEN SUCH STUDENTS, DON'T YOU THINK PEOPLE WOULD HAVE KICKED UP A BIG FUSS ABOUT IT?

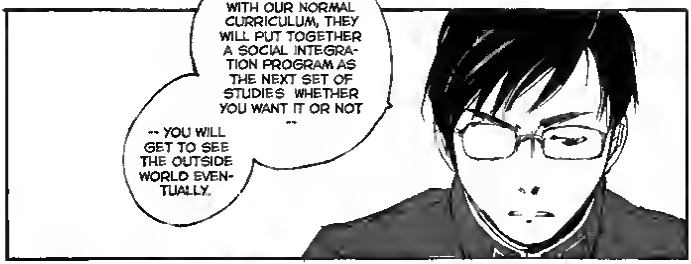
YOU WERE UP LATE READING AGAIN, WEREN'T YOU?
I GUESS SOME-ONE DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP
DON'T TELL US YOU'RE GOING TO COPY NATSUME AND START WRITING YOUR OWN NOVEL.
THE BACK --
-- OF MY HEAD JUST WENT NUMB FOR A SECOND, THAT'S ALL
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAKI?
IT'S NOTHING
OH... NO...
WHERE DO THE STUDENTS GO -- -- WHEN THEY ARE EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL?
SAY ...
BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW MY PARENTS' FACES ...
I'LL PROBABLY GO HOME ONE DAY ...
BUT EVEN IF I WERE TO MEET MY PARENTS AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME, I WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO FACE THEM
WHAT A QUES-TION ...
BACK TO THEIR PARENTS' HOME, OF COURSE.

YOU HAVE A VISITOR
HOW IS IT? YOUR FIRST TIME IN A CELL.
MAKI!
YOU'RE TAKING THIS WAY TOO SERIOUSLY, PAL. IT'LL ONLY BE FOR THREE DAYS, RIGHT?
WHEN YOU GET OUT, YOU'LL HAVE THREE DAYS OF SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS WAITING FOR YOU.
GO WORK ON YOUR BELOVED NOVEL WHILE YOU'VE STILL GOT THE TIME
WHAT CAN I SAY? IT'S BORING THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO DO...
HOW ARE MEI AND RYO DOING?

I CAN'T WRITE IN SURROUNDINGS LIKE THIS.
C'MON, YOU'RE SUCH A WIMP.
I...
I DIDN'T INTEND TO RUN AWAY FROM HERE
ALL I WANTED WAS TO SEE THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN
MAKI
HOW IS NATSUME HOLDING UP?
高等部
THE NEXT SCHOOL LIES BEHIND THE MOUNTAIN, I TELL YOU.
WE WILL GRADUATE FROM HERE IN TWO YEARS.

BOY SAID HE'S BORED.
OF COURSE HE IS
BUT TO THINK THAT A SCAREDY-CAT LIKE HIM --
-- WOULD DO SOMETHING THAT BOLD ALL OF A SUDDEN.
I WONDER HOW LONG HE'D BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT ...
HE MUST'VE BEEN PLAYING WITH THAT THOUGHT FOR QUITE A WHILE NOW.
...
AS HAVE WE ALL

WE'VE BEEN LIVING INSIDE THESE SAME WALLS SINCE WE CAME HERE AT THE AGE OF THREE.
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE LIFE WE LEAD HERE --
-- WE CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER THROUGH THE YEARS WHAT THE OUTSIDE WORLD LOOKS LIKE
SURE, WE KNOW WHAT WE READ ABOUT IT.
BUT I WANT TO SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES
I DON'T LIKE THE OUTSIDE WORLD
IT SCARES ME...


ONCE WE'RE DONE WITH OUR NORMAL CURRICULUM, THEY WILL PUT TOGETHER A SOCIAL INTEGRATION PROGRAM AS THE NEXT SET OF STUDIES WHETHER YOU WANT IT OR NOT --
-- YOU WILL GET TO SEE THE OUTSIDE WORLD EVENTUALLY.

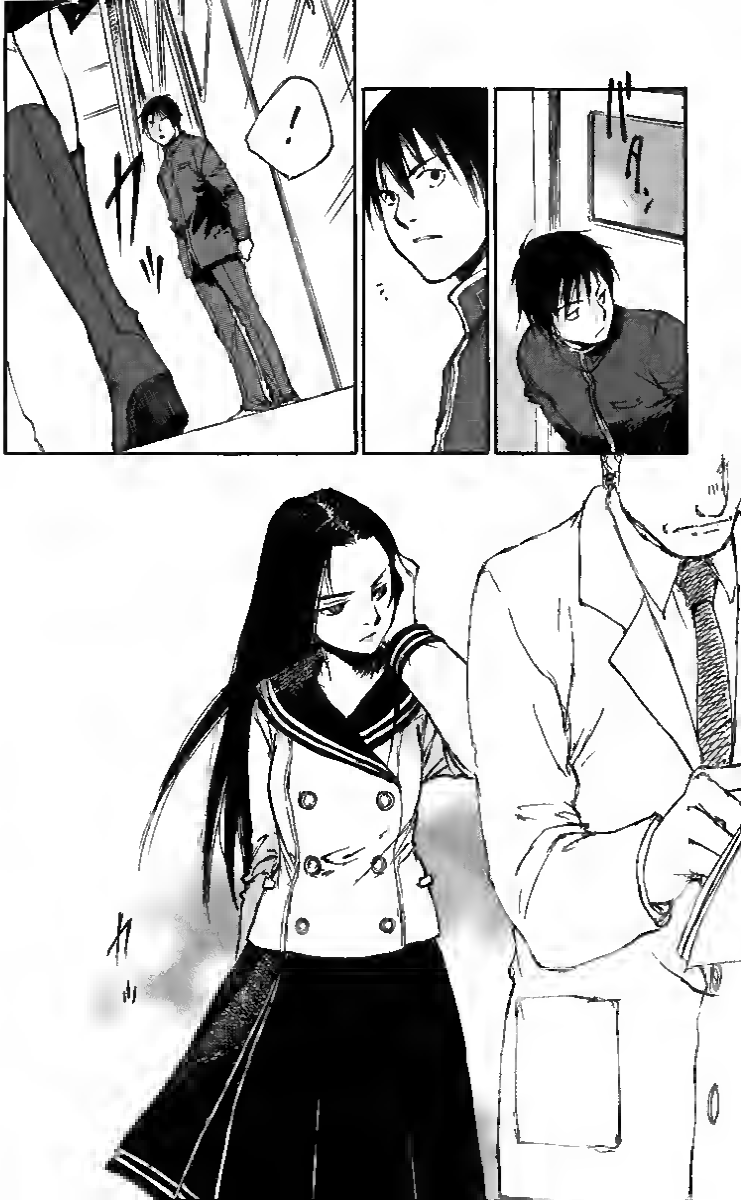
IT'S JUST MY USUAL HEADACHE
I'LL BE FINE AFTER A SHORT REST.

GACK!?
RYO!

AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT IT?

IT'S NOT THAT I'M NOT CURIOUS, BUT WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
I'M MERELY FOLLOWING THE SCHOOL'S POLICY.

I JUST WANNA SEE MS. OTAKI. HAVEN'T BEEN TO HER OFFICE FOR A WHILE.
...
I'M STILL STRONG ENOUGH TO GO TO THE MEDICAL OFFICE BY MYSELF, YOU KNOW.
YEAH, YEAH.
ALL RIGHT, YOU GO GET SOME REST.
MR. TAKANO, YOU MAY LEAVE NOW.
YES, MA'AM.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE A FEVER.
IT'S MY USUAL MIGRAINE.
IT'LL SUBSIDE IN A MINUTE.



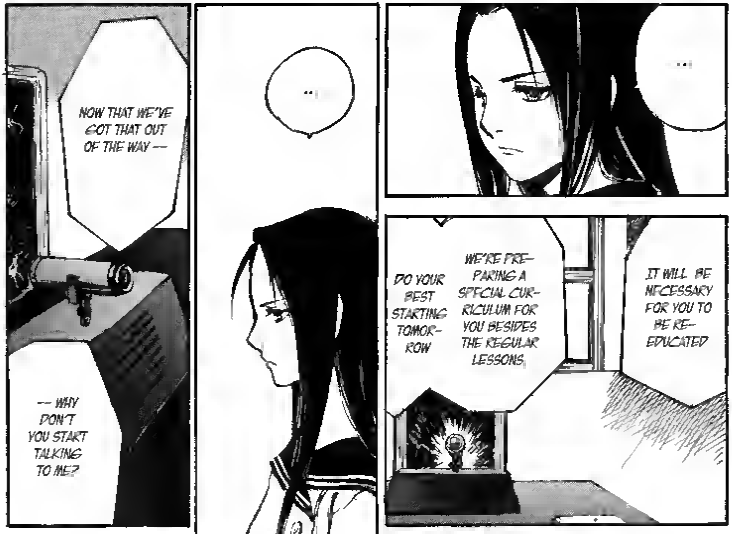
WHO WAS THAT?

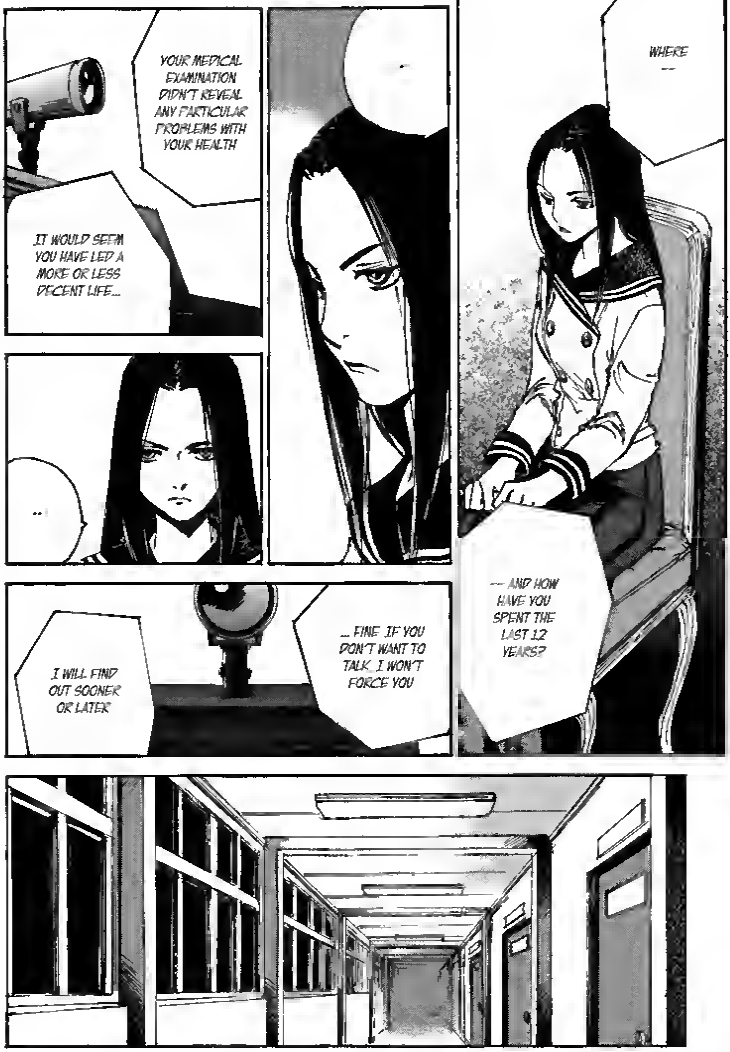
MS OTAKI --
-- IT WILL RAIN SOON.
REALLY ?
BUT IT'S SUNNY OUTSIDE.
SOMEHOW I KNOW IT.
EVERY TIME I HAVE A HEAD-ACHE --
-- MY SENSES SHARPEN
...
IT WILL RAIN SOON.

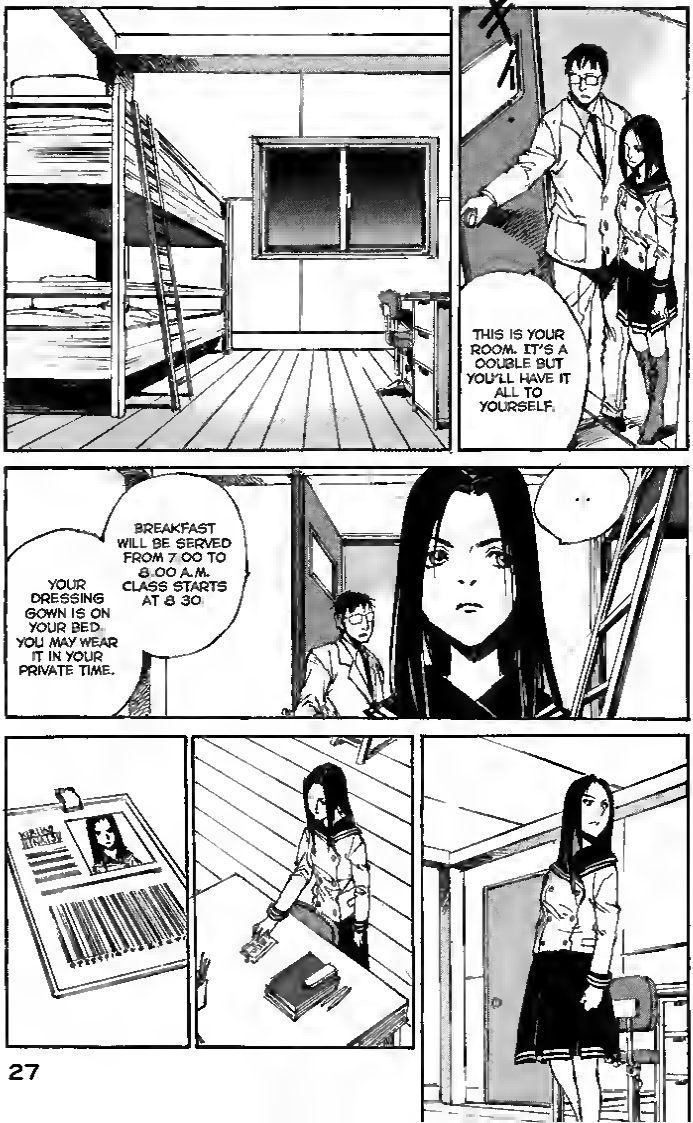
キーン
THEY ARE CERTAINLY FAMILIAR.
THOSE EYES ---
HOWEVER, THERE'S NO SUCH GIRL EITHER IN THE MIDDLE OR THE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS.

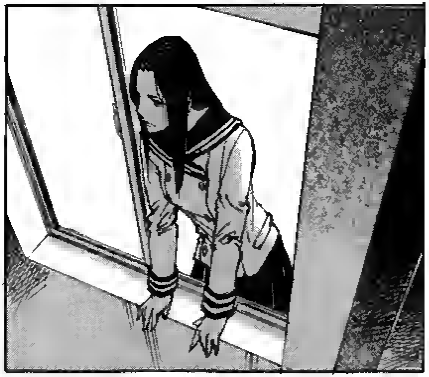
WHO IN THE WORLD IS SHE?
ザァァ
MAKI, HEY!
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU WERE SPACED OUT.
AH, NO I'M NOTHING.

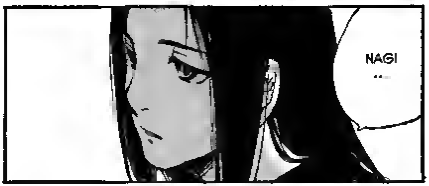
I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD SEE YOU AT THIS SCHOOL AGAIN...
KIRIKO HINATSU


NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THAT OUT OF THE WAY --
-- WHY DON'T YOU START TALKING TO ME?
...
...
DO YOUR BEST STARTING TOMOR-ROW
WE'RE PRE-PARING A SPECIAL CUR-RICULUM FOR YOU BESIDES THE REGULAR LESSONS.
IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR YOU TO BE RE-EDUCATED

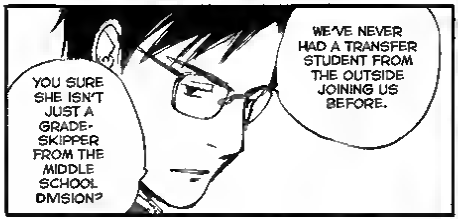

YOUR MEDICAL EXAMINATION DIDN'T REVEAL ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WITH YOUR HEALTH
IT WOULD SEEM YOU HAVE LED A MORE OR LESS DECENT LIFE...
...
WHERE ---
--- AND HOW HAVE YOU SPENT THE LAST 12 YEARS?
... FINE. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK, I WON'T FORCE YOU
I WILL FIND OUT SOONER OR LATER

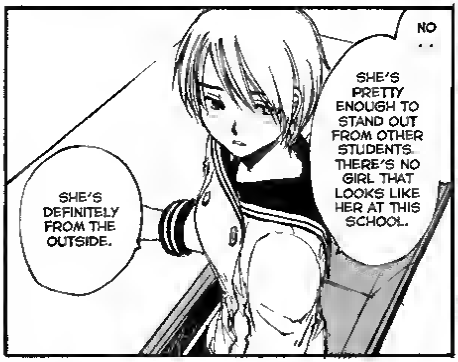

THIS IS YOUR ROOM. IT'S A DOUBLE BUT YOU'LL HAVE IT ALL TO YOURSELF.
..
BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED FROM 7.00 TO 8.00 A.M. CLASS STARTS AT 8.30.
YOUR DRESSING GOWN IS ON YOUR BED. YOU MAY WEAR IT IN YOUR PRIVATE TIME.




NAGI
...

NATSUME!
MORNING LOOK WHO'S BEEN RELEASED.


YOU SURE SHE ISN'T JUST A GRADE-SKIPPER FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION?
WE'VE NEVER HAD A TRANSFER STUDENT FROM THE OUTSIDE JOINING US BEFORE.

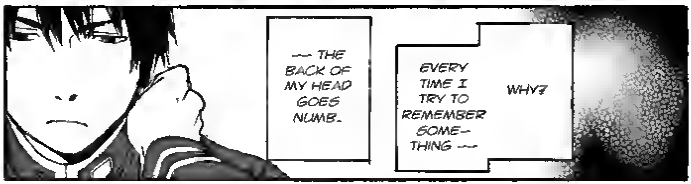

SHE'S DEFINITELY FROM THE OUTSIDE.
NO . . .
SHE'S PRETTY ENOUGH TO STAND OUT FROM OTHER STUDENTS. THERE'S NO GIRL THAT LOOKS LIKE HER AT THIS SCHOOL.

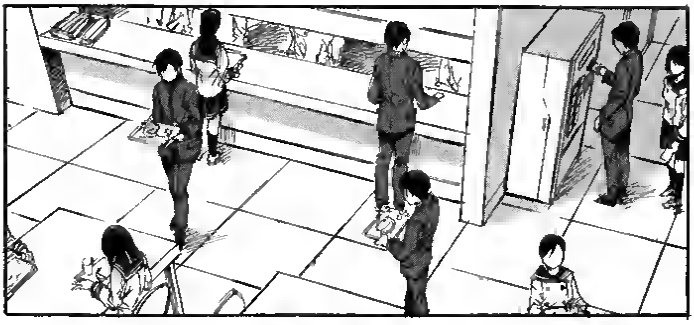
WHO'S THAT?
...
A TRANSFER STUDENT THEY SAID.

THE OUT-SIDE?
NO ...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN THERE IS NO WAY I COULD HAVE SEEN HER HERE BEFORE.
BUT I DID- A LONG TIME AGO.
I REMEMBER THOSE EYES CLEARLY.
SHE WAS AT THIS SCHOOL ONCE, OF THAT I'M SURE.
MAKI?
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
NO, NOTHING ...

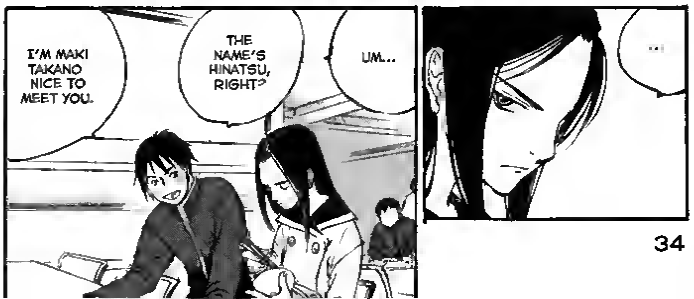
NO, I *MUST* HAVE SEEN HER BEFORE!
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS.
I --
-- DON'T REMEMBER HER.
YOU SAY SHE WAS AT THIS SCHOOL A LONG TIME AGO?
YOUR MEMORIES MUST BE WRONG.
IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
I SAW HER GETTING OUT OF A CAR WITH SEVERAL TEACHERS.
IT WAS DARK, SO I COULDN'T SEE HER FACE, BUT I DID SEE A GIRL WITH LONG HAIR.
BUT... I THINK SHE WAS BROUGHT HERE ON THE NIGHT THEY CAUGHT ME..
UM, I DON'T REMEMBER HER EITHER..
WHAT?
..
SHE WAS BROUGHT HERE?

BUT SHE WAS AT THIS SCHOOL. THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
SHE CAME FROM THE OUTSIDE.

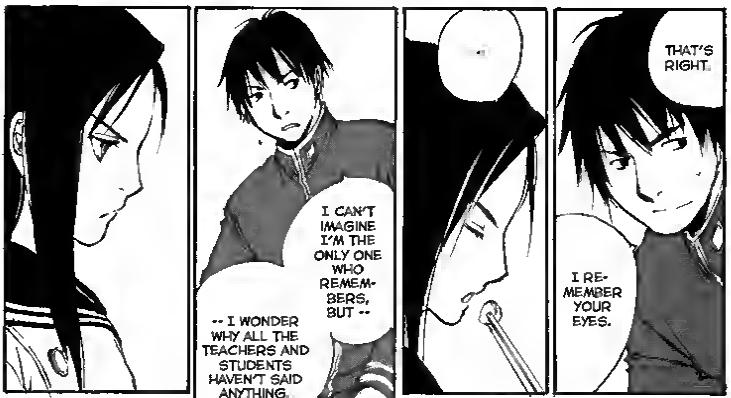

—THE BACK OF MY HEAD GOES NUMB.
EVERY TIME I TRY TO REMEMBER SOME-THING —
WHY?



HI THERE!
ヒョ
ケイヤ...


I'M MAKI TAKANO NICE TO MEET YOU.
THE NAME'S HINATSU, RIGHT?
UM...
...

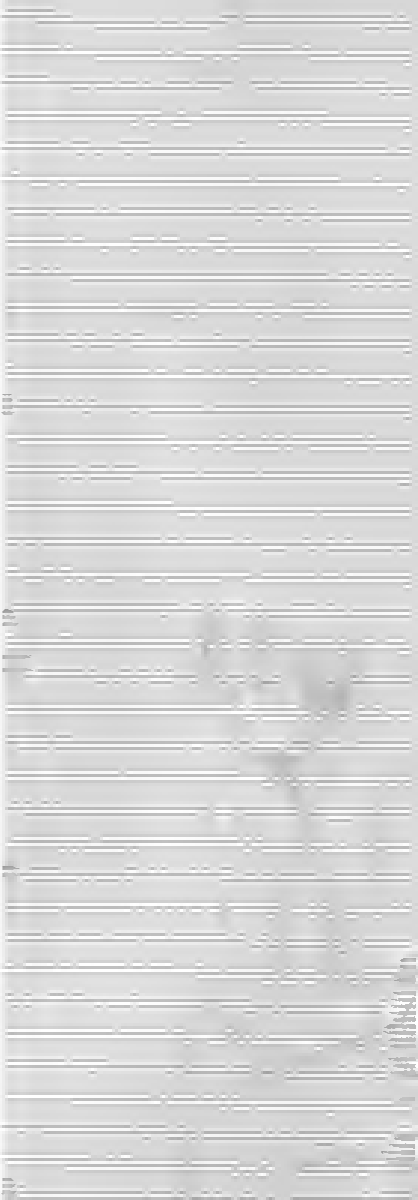
YOU --
-- WERE AT THIS SCHOOL A LONG TIME AGO, WEREN'T YOU?
WELL...
THIS MIGHT BE A RATHER DIRECT QUESTION, BUT...


I CAN'T IMAGINE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO REMEMBERS, BUT --
-- I WONDER WHY ALL THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I REMEMBER YOUR EYES.

HUH?
HEY. .
WHAT DO YOU THINK THESE ARE?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE THEM IN WITH YOUR DAILY MEALS
THEY'RE PILLS, WHAT ELSE?
YOU KNOW, VITAMINS, NUTRITIOUS SUPPLE-MENTS, SUCH THINGS .
FORGET IT. IT'S NOTHING
RED?
SINCE WHEN -- HAVE THEY HAD THIS RED CAPSULE?
WHAT ABOUT IT?
YOU MEAN THIS ONE?
I CAN'T SEEM TO SEE THE COLOR CLEARLY

HOLD ON --
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME MEANING BEHIND THIS.
IT'S THOSE PILLS THAT HAVE CAUSED EVERYBODY HERE TO FORGET ME.
THEY'RE PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR COLOR BLINDNESS AS WELL.
WHAT?

THIS PLACE IS --
-- AN EXPERIMENTAL FACILITY --
-- DISGUISED AS A SCHOOL.

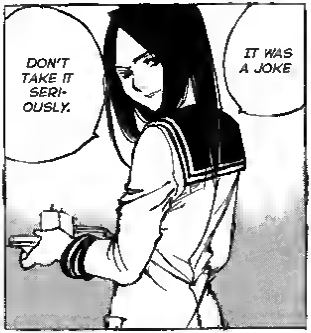


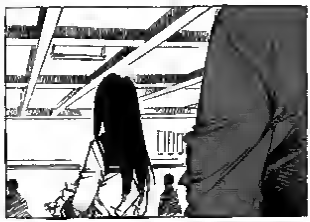
Chapter 1

波紋 #2

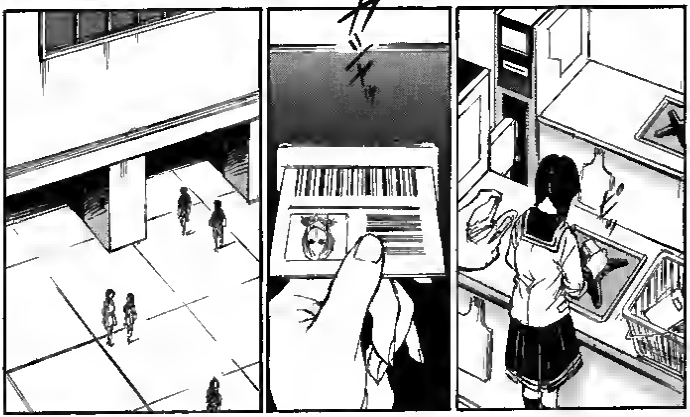
RIPPLE

MAKI?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?
HUH?
OH... NO...





1: Fujimori Store



THANKS I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY LEFT FOR THIS MONTH.

OH... YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO, YOU KNOW.
SINCE YOU GAVE ME YOUR ERASER LAST TIME, YOU CAN HAVE THIS ONE IN RETURN.

JUST A SECOND!
!
AIEE!
MAKI?
AH, TAKANO...!
W-WHAT IS IT?
OH, SORRY...
WRONG PERSON.
JEEZ, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MAKI?
IT'S NOTHING.

YOU ALWAYS PUSH YOURSELF 'TIL YOU COLLAPSE ..
THAT WAS WHEN I WAS A KID.
DON'T WORRY. I'M GREAT.
MEI, YOU LOOK KIND OF PALE.
AREN'T YOU FEELING WELL?
OK... THIS IS MY CLASS-ROOM.
SEE YOU AT LUNCH-TIME.

HEY, WAIT!
AH!

AH ...
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
HOLD ON...
Y-YOU ...

OUT OF SIGHT?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUH?
LET'S GET OUT OF SIGHT.
THIS IS NOT A GOOD PLACE TO TALK...
GOOD.
MUCH BETTER NOW.
HOW DO YOU FEEL, MR. ARAYAMA?

THEY MUST BE AN OMEN FOR SOME-THING.
I DON'T KNOW WH-Y, BUT I ALWAYS GET THESE CRAMPS IN MY TEMPLES.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THOSE ATTACKS HAVE BECOME MORE FREQUENT LATELY.
{knock knock}
!!
PLEASE COME IN.
I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT YOUR FORE-CASTS ARE ALWAYS ACCURATE.
YOU MEAN, LIKE, IT WILL RAIN AGAIN?
...
A STORM IS COMING.

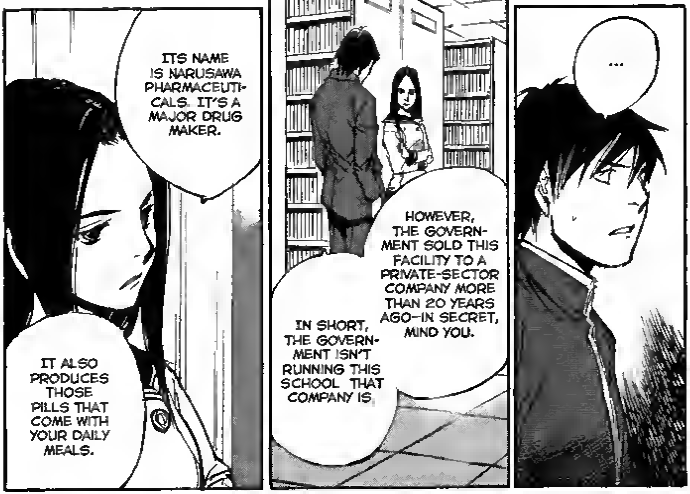
I'M SORRY, IT SEEMS MY ANEMIA IS RAISING ITS UGLY HEAD AGAIN.
PLEASE LET ME REST HERE FOR A WHILE
ガラ
EXCUSE ME.
MEI!
OH, RYO.
YOUR ANEMIA AGAIN?
YEAH ...
PLEASE DON'T TELL MAKI, OK?

OK.
I'LL COME CHECK ON YOU AT LUNCH BREAK.
THANKS. I JUST NEED SOME REST. I'LL BE FINE.
WELL...
I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET WORRIED...
WHY?
...
SO...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT DO I *WANT*?

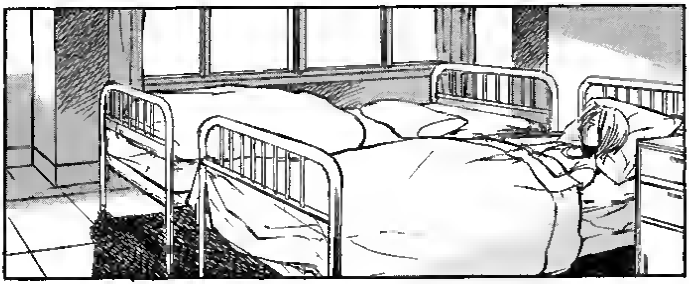
DON'T EVADE IT.
IT'S NOT JUST THE FACT THAT I CAN REMEMBER YOU, I FEEL THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS SCHOOL AS WELL.
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU IT WAS A JOKE
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME MORE --
-- ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY.
BUT I CAN'T TELL WHAT EXACTLY CAUSES THAT FEELING.
I FEEL THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
HOWEVER, EVERY TIME I TRY TO REMEMBER, THE BACK OF MY HEAD JUST BECOMES NUMB, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO RECALL ANYTHING.
BACK THEN, YOU SAID THAT EVERYONE HERE FORGOT ABOUT YOU.
THAT MUST MEAN THAT YOU'VE BEEN TO THIS SCHOOL BEFORE RIGHT?

I REMEMBER YOU.
THE FIRST TIME WHEN WE MADE EYE CONTACT ON THE CORRIDOR, I THOUGHT THAT I HAD MET YOU BEFORE. THEN IT CAME TO ME THAT WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS TOGETHER.
BUT THAT'S IT...
..
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ALL THIS?
I *DID* TRY TO REMEMBER MORE...
BUT I JUST *COULDN'T*.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I WAS AT THIS SCHOOL ONCE.

I JUST HAD THIS STRONG FEELING THAT I COULDN'T STAY HERE...
I DIDN'T KNOW WHY...
I RAN AWAY --
-- WHEN I WAS FIVE.
THIS SCHOOL "WAS FOUNDED AND IS FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO BRING UP OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS."
THAT'S WHAT THEY MADE YOU STUDENTS BELIEVE, DIDN'T THEY?
BUT THAT'S NOT HOW THINGS LOOK LIKE FROM THE OUTSIDE.
SINCE THIS SCHOOL IS LOCATED WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF AN US MILITARY BASE, THE PUBLIC DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THAT IT EXISTS.
...BECAUSE THIS PLACE IS AN EXPERIMENTAL FACILITY AS YOU SAID?
EXACTLY.


ITS NAME IS NARUSAWA PHARMACEUTICALS. IT'S A MAJOR DRUG MAKER.
IT ALSO PRODUCES THOSE PILLS THAT COME WITH YOUR DAILY MEALS.
IN SHORT, THE GOVERNMENT ISN'T RUNNING THIS SCHOOL. THAT COMPANY IS.
HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT SOLD THIS FACILITY TO A PRIVATE-SECTOR COMPANY MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO—IN SECRET, MIND YOU.
...

THEY SERVE TO GATHER VARIOUS DATA REQUIRED FOR THE MANUFACTURING OF NEW MEDICINES.
THEY'RE EXPERIMENTAL DRUGS NOT YET APPROVED IN JAPAN



MS. OTAKI ...
MY BODY --
-- SHOULD BE STRONGER NOW COMPARED TO WHEN I WAS A KID, RIGHT?
...
WILL I ALSO BE CURED FROM THIS PALE SKIN AND HAIR OF MINE?
DON'T WORRY I THINK YOU'VE BECOME STRONGER EVEN COMPARED TO WHEN I ARRIVED FOUR YEARS AGO
PROBABLY ...
YOU'LL GAIN MORE PHYSICAL STRENGTH WHEN YOU GROW UP.

THOSE DRUGS PRODUCE SIDE EFFECTS, YOU KNOW.
YOUR AFFECTED COLOR VISION IS LIKELY ONE OF THOSE.
ONE OF THE DRUGS YOU TAKE DAILY MANIPULATES THE INFORMATION STORAGE PRIORITY IN YOUR MEMORY.
-- BECAUSE I WAS DEEMED AS INSIGNIFICANT INFORMATION IN YOUR MEMORIES AND WAS THUS DELETED.
NOBODY HERE REMEMBERS ME --
I..
I'M SORRY, BUT..
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU SAID
...
FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, THE COMPANY HAS BEEN PUTTING A GREAT DEAL OF ENERGY INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEUROLOGICALLY ACTIVE DRUGS.
THEIR RESEARCH INTO DRUG-AIDED BRAIN CONTROL IS STILL BEING CARRIED OUT.
ITS PURPOSE IS PROBABLY THE ARTIFICIAL CREATION OF PRODIGIES, WITH THIS SCHOOL BEING THEIR TESTING GROUND.

THERE'S NO WAY SUCH A FACILITY COULD BE ALLOWED TO EXIST.
NO .. NOT FOR SUCH A LONG TIME ..
AND WHO'S TO STOP THEM?
SOME GOVERN-MENTAL AGENCY MAYBE?
THE GOVERN-MENT ITSELF WOULD PROBABLY BE INTERESTED IN SUCH DRUGS.
WHAT IF IT JUST TURNS A BLIND EYE TO THIS FACILITY?
!
WHAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE PARENTS, NOT EVEN RELA-TIVES, IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WHAT IF NONE OF THE STUDENTS HERE ARE REGISTERED ANYWHERE AS A CITIZEN?
THIS IS AN EXTRA-TERRITO-RIAL MILITARY INSTALLA-TION.
MOREOVER, IT'S A FORTI-FIED AREA FROM THE PREWAR DAYS.
WHAT IF NO ONE WILL EVER COME TO YOUR RESCUE?

AT ANY RATE...
I'LL GET OUT OF HERE AGAIN.
PLEASE, HELP ME.

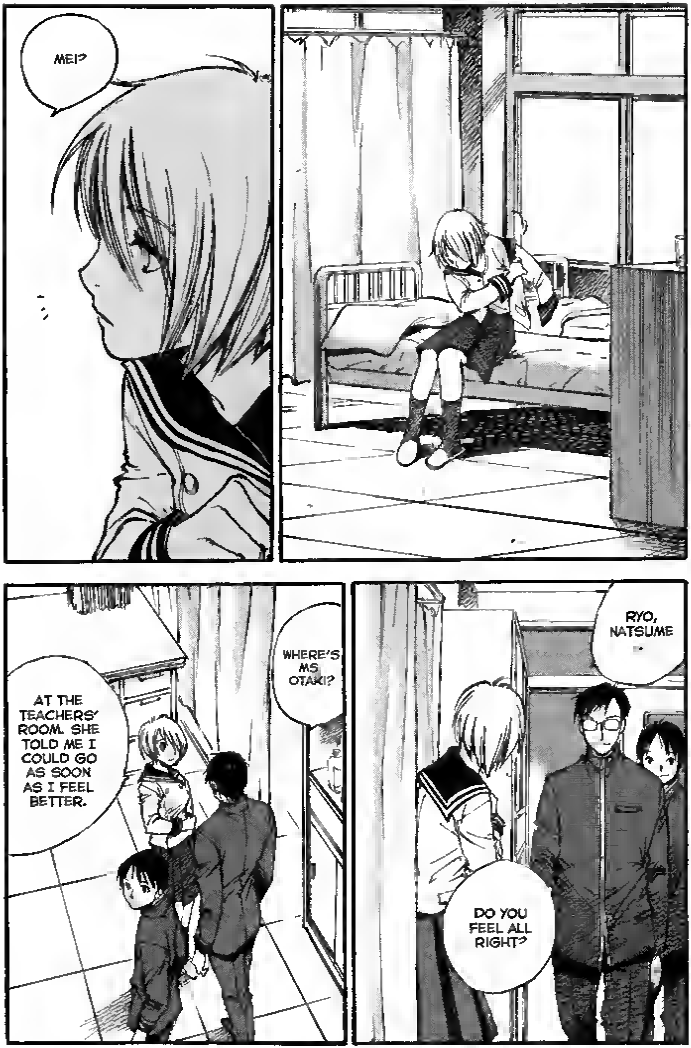
English version
NOMAD SOUL

Translation check
DARKFIBRE

Proofreading
KOE

katonoka monkey pirate.com

Chapter 1
波紋 #3
RIPPLE


MEI?
RYO, NATSUME
DO YOU FEEL ALL RIGHT?
WHERE'S MS. OTAKI?
AT THE TEACHERS' ROOM. SHE TOLD ME I COULD GO AS SOON AS I FEEL BETTER.

WHERE'S MAKI?
HE WASN'T IN CLASS
I WONDER WHERE HE WENT?
HELP YOU?
WITH WHAT?
MEET ME AT THE MAIN BUILDING'S STAIRWELL TO THE ROOF --
-- AROUND ELEVEN O'CLOCK TOMORROW NIGHT
I WILL FILL YOU IN ON FURTHER DETAILS.

WAIT A MINUTE!
I HAVEN'T EVEN ACCEPTED --
-- WHAT YOU TOLD ME TO BE TRUE, EITHER
I DIDN'T SAY THAT I'D HELP YOU.
SEE YOU.
I ONLY TOLD YOU THOSE THINGS 'CAUSE YOU ASKED ME TO.
NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD THEM, I'LL HAVE YOU HELP ME.
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T LAND YOU IN TROUBLE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE ME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU TRICKED ME INTO THIS!
IF YOU HADN'T TEASED ME WITH THOSE INSINUATIONS ..
HEY, YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. YOU SAID YOU FELT THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS SCHOOL ..
BUT THEN.. YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO LIKE WHAT I TOLD YOU.
YOU WANTED TO HEAR A MORE BELIEVABLE STORY, IS THAT IT?
YOUR REALITY ONLY EXISTS WITHIN THIS SCHOOL.
THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS.
BYE ..
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU TOMORROW
...

"LET'S RUN AWAY FROM HERE TOGETHER."
WHAT?
THAT'S WHAT I SAID --
-- BACK THEN
YOU PROBABLY DON'T RE/MEM-BER IT, THOUGH.

...
...BACK THEN?
WHERE HAS MAKI GONE OFF TO?
I BET HE'S IN THE CAFETERIA.
カラ
カツ

SHUDDER
...
WHAT WAS THIS FEELING JUST NOW?

OH, MAKI!
WERE YOU WITH THAT GIRL HINATSU?
WHAT HAPPENED? HOW COME YOU WEREN'T IN CLASS?
OH... IT WAS NOTHING, I JUST HAD TO LOOK SOMETHING UP IN THE LIBRARY
HEY
N-NO..
BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION HER, I THINK SHE WAS ALSO IN THE LIBRARY..
HUH?
COME ON, LET'S GO TO THE CAFETERIA ALREADY!
THE LUNCH BREAK WILL BE OVER SOON

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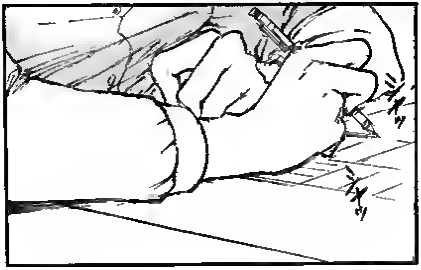
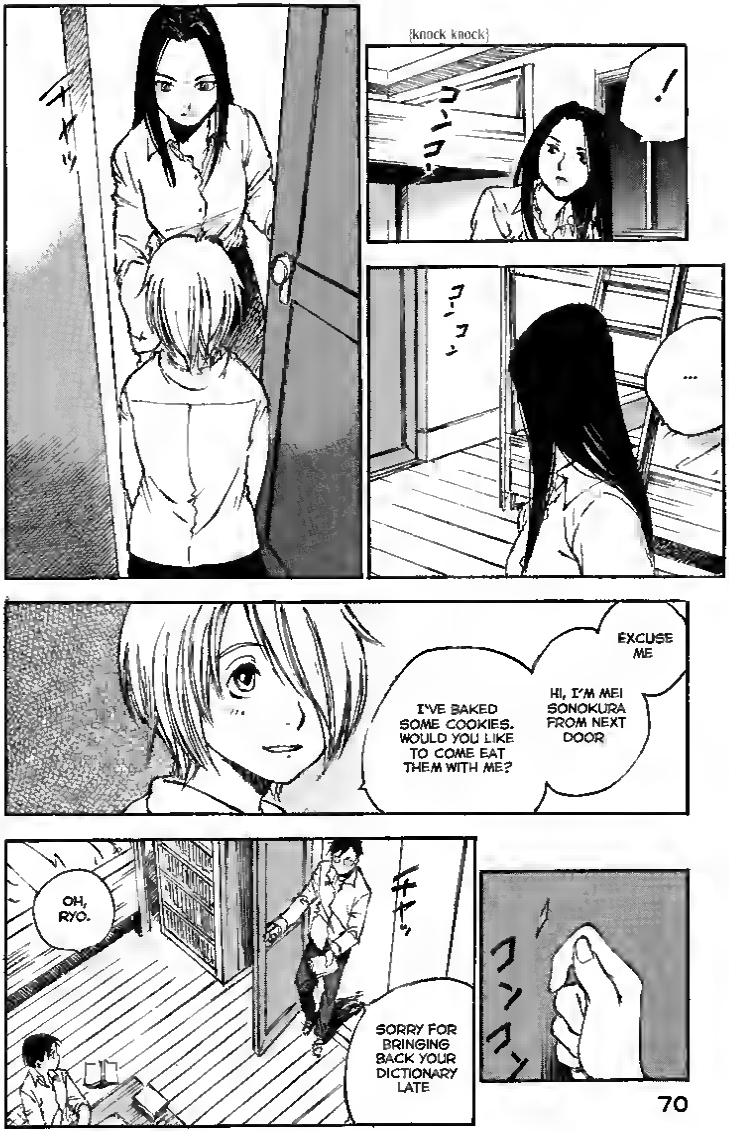
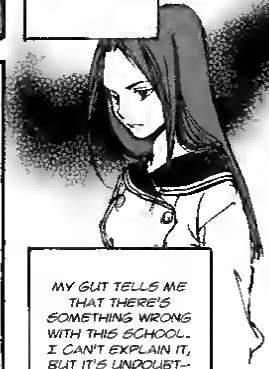



{knock knock}
コンコン
!
コンコン
...
EXCUSE ME
HI, I'M MEI SONOKURA FROM NEXT DOOR
I'VE BAKED SOME COOKIES. WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME EAT THEM WITH ME?
ガチャ
OH, RYO.
SORRY FOR BRINGING BACK YOUR DICTIONARY LATE
コンコン

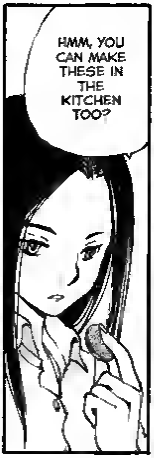
WORKING ON YOUR NOVEL AGAIN?
YEAH, SORT OF.
DON'T STAY UP TOO LATE, OK?
AND LET ME READ YOUR NOVEL WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED.
NO WAY
KNOWING YOU, YOU'D START CORRECTING MY SPELLING MISTAKES INSTANTLY.
MAKI
...
HUH?
HEY, RYO
...

OH, COME ON. GIVE ME A BREAK. I'M OFF
NIGHT, PAL
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'LL GO TO BED IN A FEW
NO, IT'S COOL. I WAS JUST ASKING
WHAT IS IT?
UM, WELL...
YOU STILL UP?
I MYSELF CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I HEARD.
HOW-EVER...
EVEN IF I'D TOLD HIM EVERYTHING RIGHT THEN AND THERE, HE WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED ME.

IT IS STRANGE THAT I'M THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN REMEMBER KIRIKO HINATSU.



MY GUT TELLS ME THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS SCHOOL. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, BUT IT'S UNDOUBTEDLY REAL.



I USED TO BE PLAGUED BY POOR HEALTH --
-- SO I WAS HOME-SCHOOLED BY MY FATHER.
..
I SEE. .
...
WELL... I DIDN'T ATTEND A SCHOOL.
MY TEACHER TOLD ME THAT I'D BE EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL SHOULD I BECOME UNABLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE CLASS.
BUT SINCE I DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED FROM MY FRIENDS, I'M DOING MY BEST TO STAY HERE.
I'M LIKE THAT, TOO.
I MEAN, I'VE BEEN FRAIL EVER SINCE I WAS A KID.
I SORT OF MANAGE TO KEEP UP WITH MY CLASS, BUT I TEND TO BE OFF SICK A LOT.

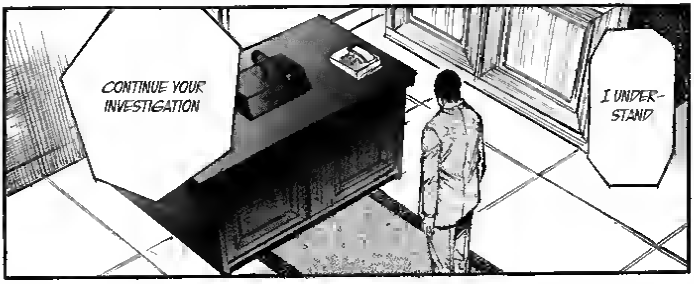
WE WERE LITTLE CHILDREN WHEN WE CAME HERE, SO WE DON'T REMEMBER OUR PARENTS' FACES AT ALL.
HUH?
SAY, WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE YOUR PARENTS?
...
WHY DID YOU COME HERE, KIRIKO?
I WONDER WHAT THAT MEANS...
NORMAL, HUH?
PEOPLE FROM THE OUTSIDE SURELY DON'T CONSIDER US AS NORMAL DO THEY?
WELL...
I GUESS THEY'RE JUST NORMAL PEOPLE.

I WAS BROUGHT HERE, ACTUALLY...
YOU SEE...
I'M NOT NORMAL EITHER.
HE SAID HE MET YOU A LONG TIME AGO. HE SAID YOU WERE AT THIS SCHOOL ONCE...
BUT THAT CAN'T BE, RIGHT?
...
MAKI SAID SOME-THING...
THAT WAS...
-- CERTAINLY A MISTAKE ON HIS PART
MEI...
I'M STILL UNFAMILIAR WITH THIS SCHOOL'S ROUTINES AND PROCE-DURES.
YOU WOULDN'T MIND FILLING ME IN ON THOSE THINGS, WOULD YOU?

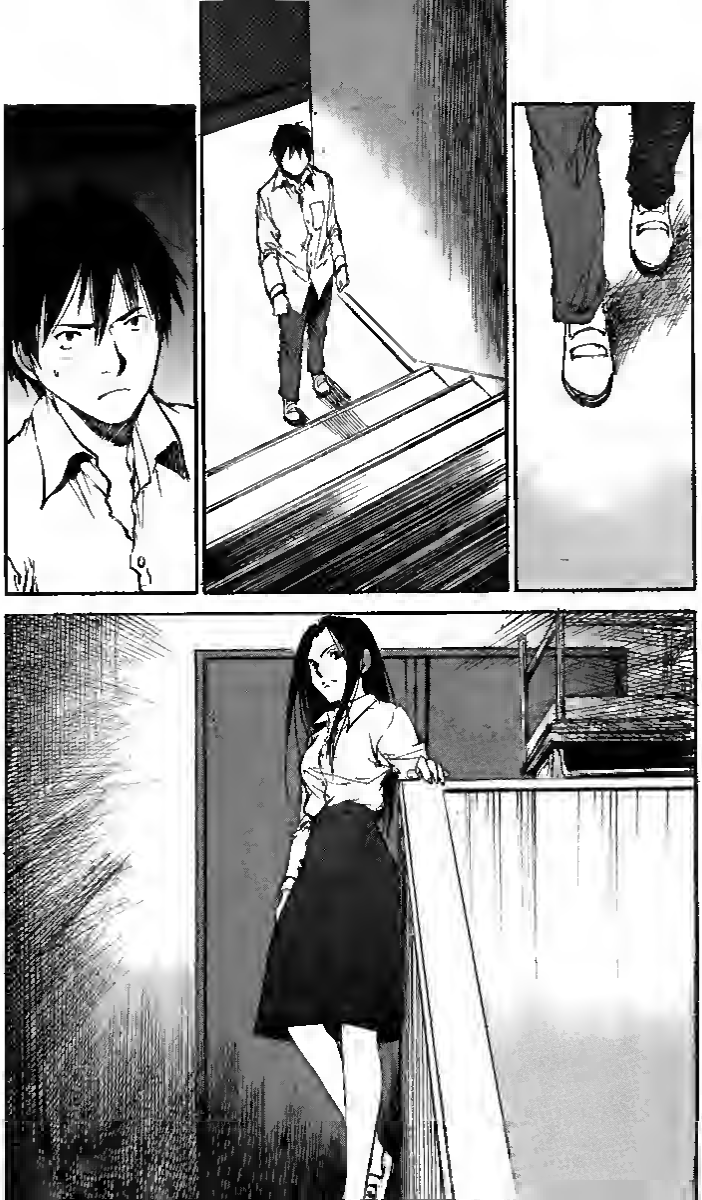
[1] Curriculum Guidance Office
学習指導室
[1]
COMPLETE YOUR SUBJECT REGISTRATION FORM BASED ON THE RESULT OF YOUR APTITUDE TEST AND SUBMIT IT TO THE SECRETARIAT.
YOU CAN GO BACK TO THE REGULAR CURRICULUM STARTING TOMORROW.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

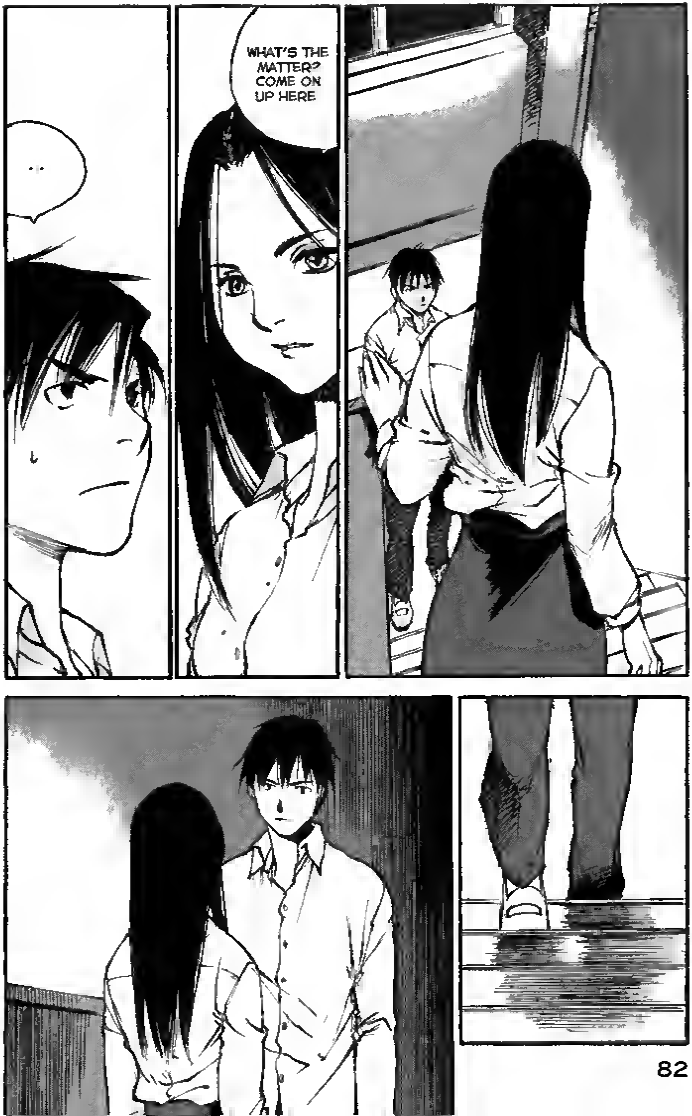
KIRIKO HINATSU TAKES HER STUDIES VERY SERIOUSLY.
BUT SHE'S UNCOMMU-NICATIVE AS EVER
SO...
HAS HER BACK-GROUND INVESTI-GATION TURNED UP ANY RESULTS YET?
WHO WERE THOSE PEOPLE?
WE DON'T KNOW. EVIDENTLY, THE APARTMENT IN QUESTION WAS DEMOLISHED YEARS AGO, AND THERE'S VERY LITTLE LEFT FROM THOSE DAYS' RECORDS
...
WE DID LEARN THAT SHE USED TO SHARE AN APARTMENT WITH A MAN AND A WOMAN IN TOKYO MANY YEARS AGO.
UNFORTU-NATELY, FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT HER IS PROVING TO BE QUITE DIFFI-CULT.


CONTINUE YOUR INVESTIGATION
I UNDER-STAND

243



Chapter 1
波紋 #4
RIPPLE


...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? COME ON UP HERE

-- DID YOU WANT TO MEET *HERE* OF ALL PLACES?
WHY IN THE WORLD --
I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T COME
I.. WASN'T GOING TO..
I WAS WALKING AROUND IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING CHECKING EVERY CORNER DURING THE DAY.
THIS PLACE HAS NO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS.
... SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS?
THERE'S ONE AT 10 P.M. AND ANOTHER ONE AT 2 A.M.
I DID A CHECK-UP ON THE TIMES OF THE PATROLS AS WELL.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
BELIEVE ME, DETECTING INTRUDERS IS NOT WHAT THOSE CAMERAS ARE BEING USED FOR.
ANYWAY, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
THEY'VE GOT THOSE THINGS INSTALLED EVERYWHERE WITHIN THE SCHOOL BUILDING. DIDN'T YOU NOTICE?
BUT THOSE ARE FOR SECURITY REASONS.
THE FLOOR PLAN OF YOUR SECTION OF THE BUILDING SHOULDN'T BE THE SAME AS OURS. THE POSITIONS OF THE STAIRS AND THE TOILETTES, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL BE DIFFERENT.
AS WILL BE THE POSITIONS AND ANGLES OF THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS.
I'VE TRIED TO MAKE A SKETCH OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING'S LAYOUT.
HERE ARE THE GIRLS' DORMITO-RIES
THE BOYS' DORMITORIES ARE LOCATED ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE, BUT GIRLS AREN'T ALLOWED THERE, CORRECT?

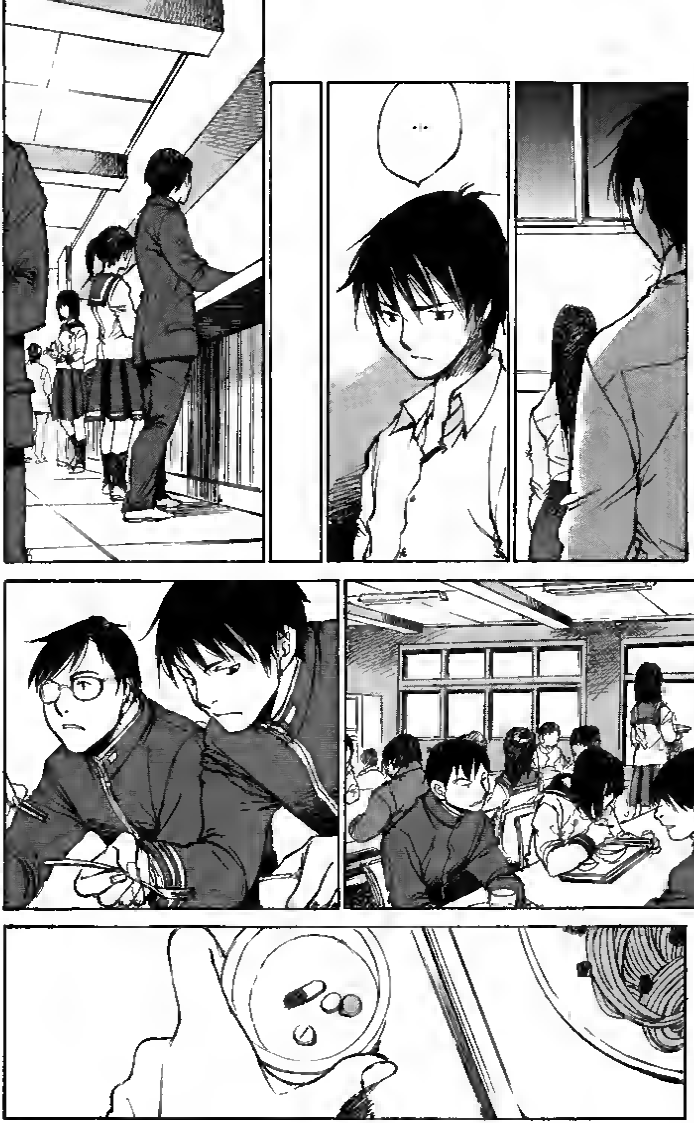
I NEED YOU TO DEPOSIT CERTAIN OBJECTS AT PLACES OF MY CHOICE.
AND YOU WANT ME TO FIND OUT THOSE THINGS?
YEAH BUT THERE'S ONE MORE THING.
CERTAIN OBJECTS ?
I WILL HAND THEM TO YOU LATER.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS DEPOSIT THEM.
I'M NOT ONE OF THIS SCHOOL'S NAIVE STUDENTS.
BUT THEY SAY IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
I'VE DONE MY HOMEWORK GATHERING ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION I'VE EVEN SECURED MY ESCAPE ROUTE.
I TOLD YOU. I'M GONNA ESCAPE FROM HERE
.. WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

IF I CAN GET AS FAR AS THE CITY AREA --
-- I'M CONFIDENT THAT THEY WON'T PURSUE ME AFTER THAT.
IT WAS PURE BAD LUCK
SOME FRIENDS OF MINE WERE ARRESTED BY THE POLICE FOR SHOP-LIFTING. I JUST HAPPENED TO BE WITH THEM.
YOUR FRIENDS ?
THEY'RE LIKE RELA-TIVES TO ME.
IF YOU'RE SO CLEVER, THEN WHY WERE YOU CAUGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

IF THEY LEARN THAT I CAN'T FLEE, THEY WILL DEFINITELY COME TO MY RESCUE
BUT ...
I DON'T WANT THEM TO DO SUCH A DANGER-OUS THING . .
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ANY TIME

I TALKED WITH MEI LAST EVENING
...

FROM AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER, SHE WAS ALWAYS TAGGING ALONG WITH YOU.
...
AND IT SEEMS SHE STILL IS.
YOU REMEMBER ME!?
AS EXPECTED, SHE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF ME.
BUT SHE WAS STILL THE SAME GIRL I REMEMBERED FROM CHILDHOOD.
ME! IS THE YOUNGEST AMONG MY FRIENDS. THAT, AND SHE HAS A VERY DELICATE HEALTH ..
I CAN'T LEAVE HER BY HERSELF.
SO THEN
I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO DO WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT EARLIER.
RIGHT ..



SUPPOSING MY EYES' CONDITION IS CAUSED BY THESE DRUGS, THEN EVERYONE ELSE HERE MUST BE AFFECTED BY THEM, TOO.
IT DIDN'T CATCH MY ATTENTION UNTIL NOW ---
--- BUT HAS MEI ALWAYS HAD THIS LIGHT A COMPLEXION?
YOUR AFFECTED COLOR VISION IS LIKELY ONE OF THOSE
THOSE DRUGS PRODUCE SIDE EFFECTS, YOU KNOW.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DO HAVE THE FEELING THAT THESE AREN'T MY NATURAL EYES.
WHAT'S UP, MAKI?
YOU WERE THERE.
OH, ME TOO, PLEASE.
I WASN'T THERE THE LAST TIME
HEY, CAN YOU SHOW ME THE NOTES OF THE NEXT LESSON?
HUH? NAH, IT'S NOTHING.

THAT'S EXACTLY THE REASON YOU WILL NEVER GROW TALLER AND TO THINK THAT YOU'RE OLDER THAN ME...
HOW MEAN! YOU KNOW I'M SENSITIVE ABOUT THAT TOPIC!
NATSUME! DON'T LEAVE ANY GREEN PEPPER OVER!
BUT I HATE THOSE.
ONCE YOU START DOUBTING THINGS, THERE'S NO END TO IT.
RYO.
MAKI

SAY, RYO...
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS SCHOOL?
...
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING RATHER STRANGE LATELY.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
HUH?
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE THE SAME INTEREST IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD LIKE NATSUME.
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T SHARE THAT INTEREST.
BUT WE'VE STILL GOT SOME WAY TO GO.
..
SO THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN ON YOUR MIND.
"WE ARE CHOSEN CHILDREN."
"WE RECEIVE ADVANCED EDUCATION SO WE CAN LEAD THIS COUNTRY ONE DAY."
WE GREW UP WITH THAT STORY, BUT DO YOU THINK IT'S THE TRUTH?

THE REASON WHY ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS RESTRICTED IS BECAUSE THERE'S MORE USELESS INFORMATION OUT THERE.
AS I SAID BEFORE, WE'LL BE PREPARED FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD IN OUR NEXT CURRICULUM.
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR US TO WORRY ABOUT IT NOW

..
I DON'T KNOW.

..
I KNOW THAT OF COURSE. .

THEN WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

COULD IT BE THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND KIRIKO HINATSU?

SORRY

JUST A HUNCH.
YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT KIRIKO HINATSU BEFORE.
WHY DO YOU ASK?
RYO HAS UNUSUALLY SHARP INTUITION.
WHEN I PASSED HER BY IN THE HALLWAY, I FELT SOMETHING THAT I CAN'T DESCRIBE.
NO, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HER
WE DIDN'T TALK MUCH WITH EACH OTHER, ANYWAY
I SEE. SORRY.
IT'S JUST THAT I NOTICED SOMETHING THE LAST TIME...

IF KIRIKO HINATSU TOLD ME THE TRUTH ---
--- THEN RYO SHOULD BE ABLE TO NOTICE SOME-THING.
MAYBE THE SHARPNESS OF HIS INTU-ITION IS AN EFFECT OF THE DRUGS AS WELL.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE.
I REMEMBER HER BEING HERE ONCE.
YET I CAN'T CLEARLY RECALL WHAT KIND OF GIRL SHE WAS AT THE TIME.
YOUR REALITY ONLY EXISTS WITHIN THIS SCHOOL.

I CAN'T RE-MEM-BER.
"BACK THEN" ?
THAT'S WHAT I SAID BACK THEN.
"LET'S RUN AWAY FROM HERE TOGETHER."
--- 12 YEARS AGO?
WAS I GOING TO RUN AWAY WITH HER ---
I WANT TO REMEMBER.
WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER MY OWN PAST?

WHAT ARE THESE?
TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT.
JUST A SECOND! BOMBS?! WHERE'D YOU GET THEM FROM?
HEY, KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THE BOYS' SECTION ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE SOUTH WING.
JUST
BOMBS.

THEY'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO MAKE A BIG BANG.
I ONLY NEED 'EM TO BUY ME SOME TIME.
RELAX THEY DON'T CONTAIN GUNPOW-DER.
THERE'S NOTHING TO IT. ANYONE CAN MAKE THEM USING THE THINGS YOU FIND AROUND HERE.
Y-YOU MADE THEM? HOW?!
I MADE THEM.
THE CAMERAS WON'T DETECT THEM THERE.
YOUR JOB IS TO PLACE THESE TWO BOMBS BEHIND THIS AND THIS CORNER PILLAR OF THE BOYS' SECTION.
THEY DON'T REQUIRE ANY SPECIAL TIMING MECHANISM. YOU ONLY NEED TO DEPOSIT THEM.
PUT THEM IN DIFFERENT PLACES AROUND THE BUILDING.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL GET HURT EITHER.
DON'T WORRY YOU'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS YOU DON'T LET THE CAMERAS SPOT YOU.
WHAT? YOU GETTING COLD FEET?
YOU'RE SERIOUS

I FEEL GUILTY FOR MAKING YOU MY ACCOM PLICE BUT...
YOU'LL FORGET ME AGAIN ONCE I'M GONE, ANYWAY.
HURRY UP, OR THEY'LL GO OFF ON YOU.
SHIT!!

WHY THE HELL AM I DOING THIS?!
AREN'T I JUST BEING USED BY THAT GIRL?
SHE MANIPU-LATED ME INTO BECOMING HER TOOL!

WHAT IF EVERY-- THING SHE SAID IS A LIE?!
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!
Chapter 1
波紋
RIPPLE #5

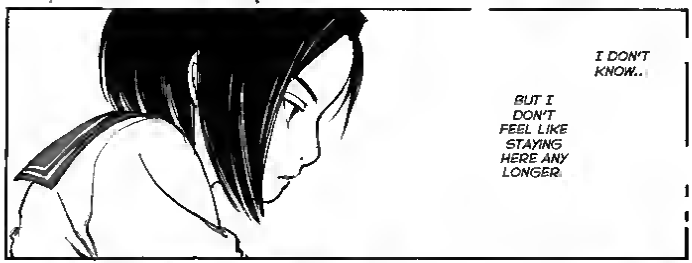
English version
NOMAD SOUL
Translation check
DARKFIBRE
Copy editing
EXEUNTSL

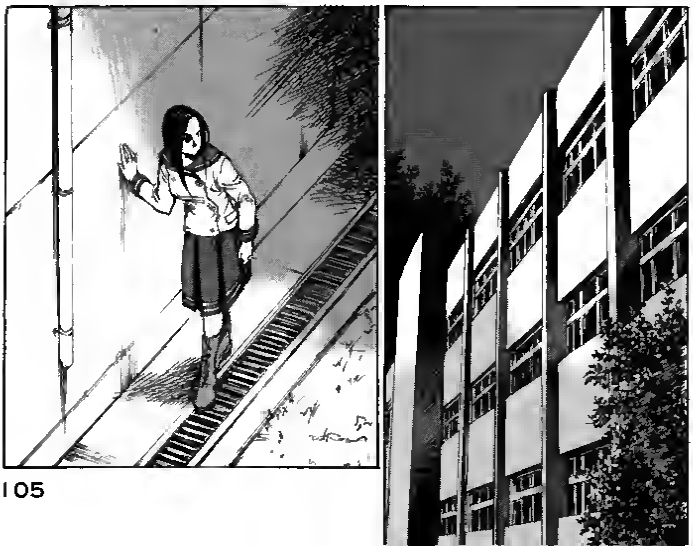
kotonoha.monkey-pirate.com

WE'RE INVESTIGATING THE CAUSE.
WAIT IN YOUR ROOMS UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTION!
EVERYONE, GO BACK TO YOUR ROOMS!
QUIET DOWN!
WHAT?! THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE SOUTH WING, TOO?

GO BACK TO YOUR ROOMS!
I'M GONNA RUN AWAY FROM HERE

AND WHERE ARE YOU GONNA GO?

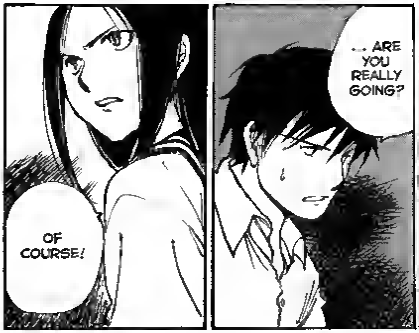

I DON'T KNOW..
BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE STAYING HERE ANY LONGER.



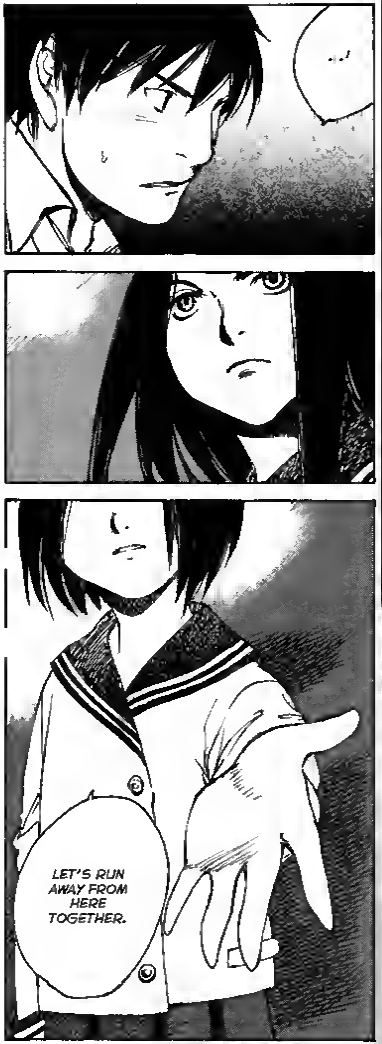
YOU'RE HEADING FOR THE WOODS, AREN'T YOU? BETTER GO THIS WAY.
TAKANO
THERE ARE STILL GUARDS OVER THERE.
!
ON THE DAY YOU RAN AWAY FROM HERE --
-- THERE WAS A BIG EXPLOSION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT THAT PUT THE WHOLE SCHOOL IN A COMMOTION.
YOUR JOB IS FINISHED.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
I REMEMBER EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.
I REMEMBER.

...
BACK THEN, I HAD TO SPEND THE WHOLE NIGHT WANDERING THE WOODS.
MAYBE THIS TIME TOO.

DURING THE CHAOS --
-- YOU SLIPPED AWAY INTO THE WOODS BY YOURSELF.


... ARE YOU REALLY GOING?
OF COURSE!

...


...!
LET'S RUN AWAY FROM HERE TOGETHER.

I CAN'T...
NO...

YOU DON'T HAVE THE HEART TO LEAVE SICKLY MEI AND YOUR OTHER FRIENDS BEHIND
I KNOW
ナリ

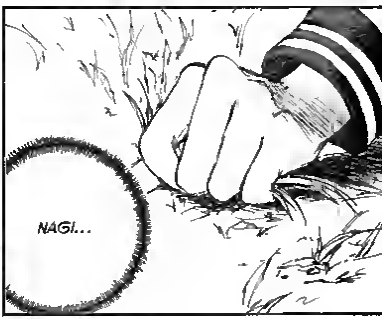
MY APOLOGIES FOR THE DISTURBANCE, SIR.
DID YOU FIND THE CAUSE?
YES, SIR. IT WAS THIS.
EXCUSE ME.
HMM, I DON'T HAVE A GOOD VIEW OF IT
WOULD YOU COME INTO MY ROOM, PLEASE?

THE BOMBS WERE VERY SIMPLE DEVICES THAT WERE MADE USING PLASTIC BOTTLES.
NO SPECIAL MATERIAL WHATSOEVER WAS USED FOR THEIR MANUFACTURE.
WE'VE COLLECTED ALL THE DEVICES.
I DO NOT BELIEVE WE ARE DEALING WITH A CRIME, SIR. IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A STUDENT'S PRANK, BUT THE SECURITY CAMERAS CAUGHT NOTHING..
THE CULPRIT IS NO LONGER IN THE BUILDING
STRENGTHEN THE OUTER SECURITY PERIMETER.

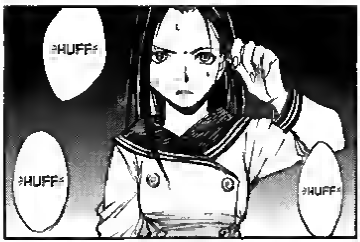
IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME CORRECTLY --
-- WE HAD A SIMILAR INCIDENT MORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUUF

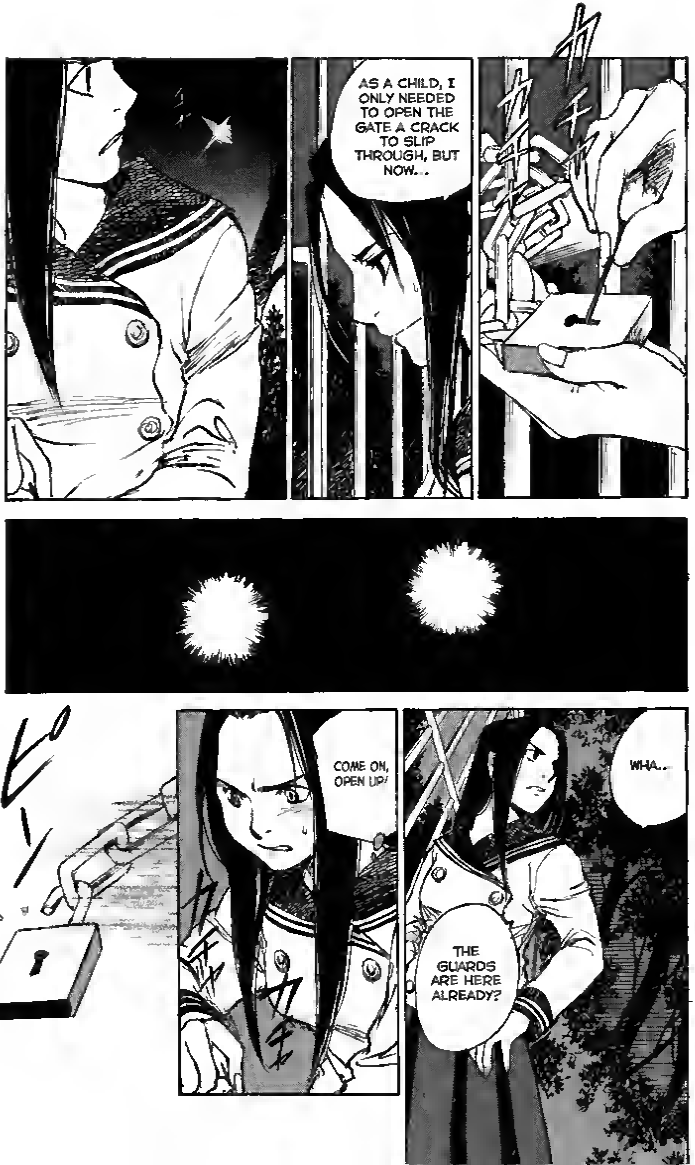
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
URG!

IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE, LEAVE.


NAGI...

I'M COMING BACK
NAGI...
I WILL DO ANYTHING --
-- JUST TO SEE YOU AGAIN.


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

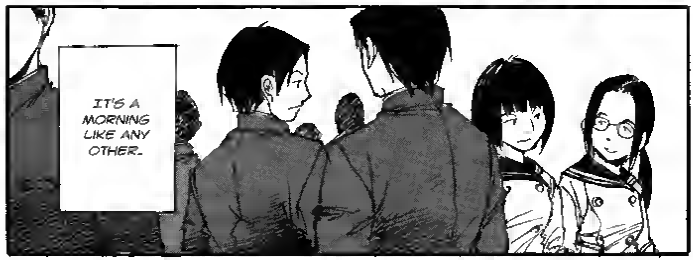

AS A CHILD, I ONLY NEEDED TO OPEN THE GATE A CRACK TO SLIP THROUGH, BUT NOW. .
カチャ
ピーン
COME ON, OPEN UP!
カチャ
カチャ
WHA..
THE GUARDS ARE HERE ALREADY?

FREEZE!
KIRIKO HINATSU, I PRESUME.

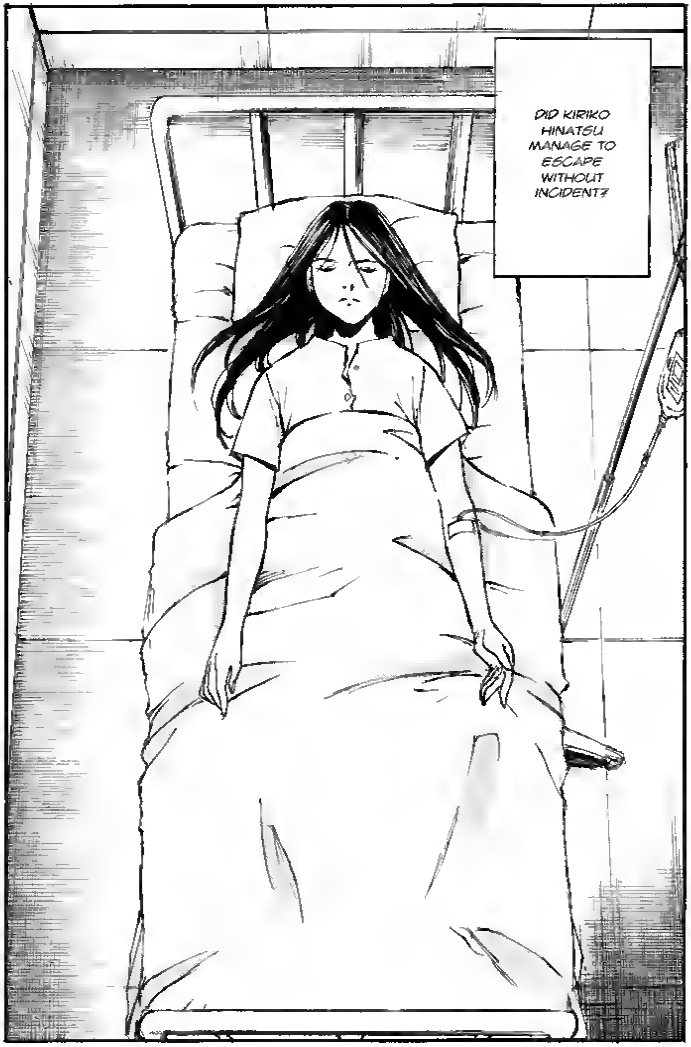
WE DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.
DON'T MOVE!
WHY DOES A SIMPLE SCHOOL GUARD CARRY SUCH A THING WITH HIM?
WE BELONG TO NARUSAWA PHARMACEUTICALS'S PRIVATE ARMY.
WE ARE NOT GUARDS.

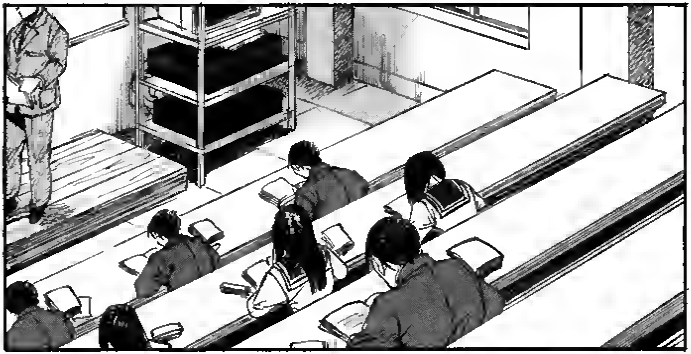
...
. . AN ARMY?
OF COURSE, THE OFFICIAL RECORDS HAVE US AS SECURITY GUARDS
MIND YOU, THE JOB WOULD BE THE SAME --
-- IF IT WEREN'T FOR STUDENTS LIKE YOU.
AREN'T YOU TELLING ME A BIT TOO MUCH HERE?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
YOU'LL FORGET IT SOON ENOUGH.

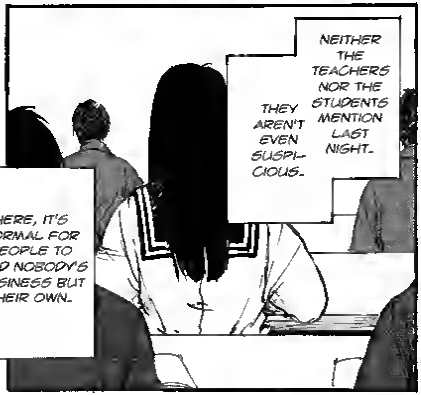
MORNING
MORNING.
Chapter 1
波紋 #6
RIPPLE


IT'S A MORNING LIKE ANY OTHER.

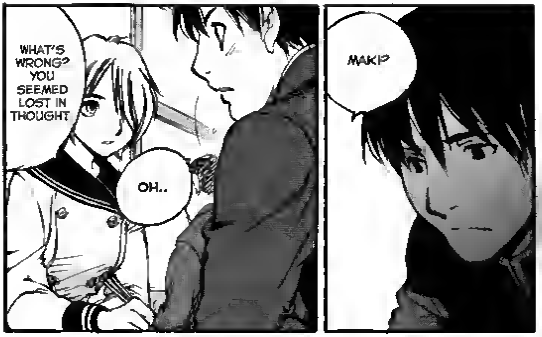
NO ONE IS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED ABOUT LAST NIGHT'S COMMOTION.

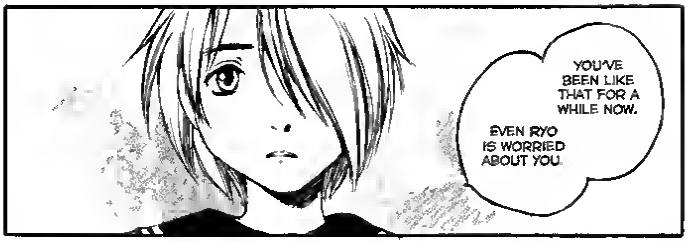

DID KIRIKO HINATSU MANAGE TO ESCAPE WITHOUT INCIDENT?

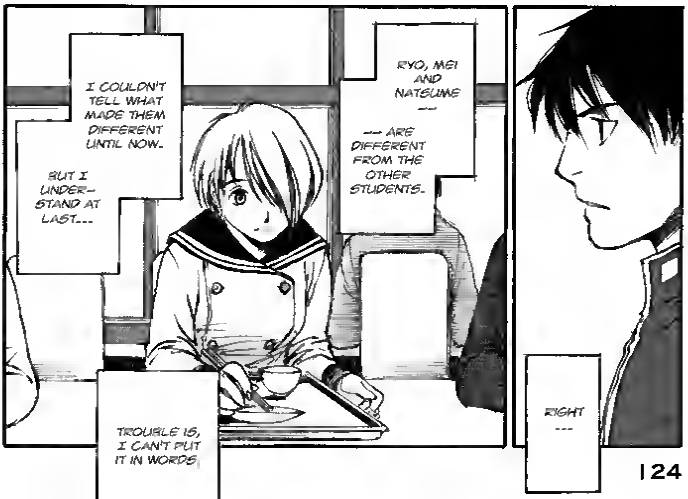



NEITHER THE TEACHERS NOR THE STUDENTS MENTION LAST NIGHT.
THEY AREN'T EVEN SUSPICIOUS.
HERE, IT'S NORMAL FOR PEOPLE TO MIND NOBODY'S BUSINESS BUT THEIR OWN.

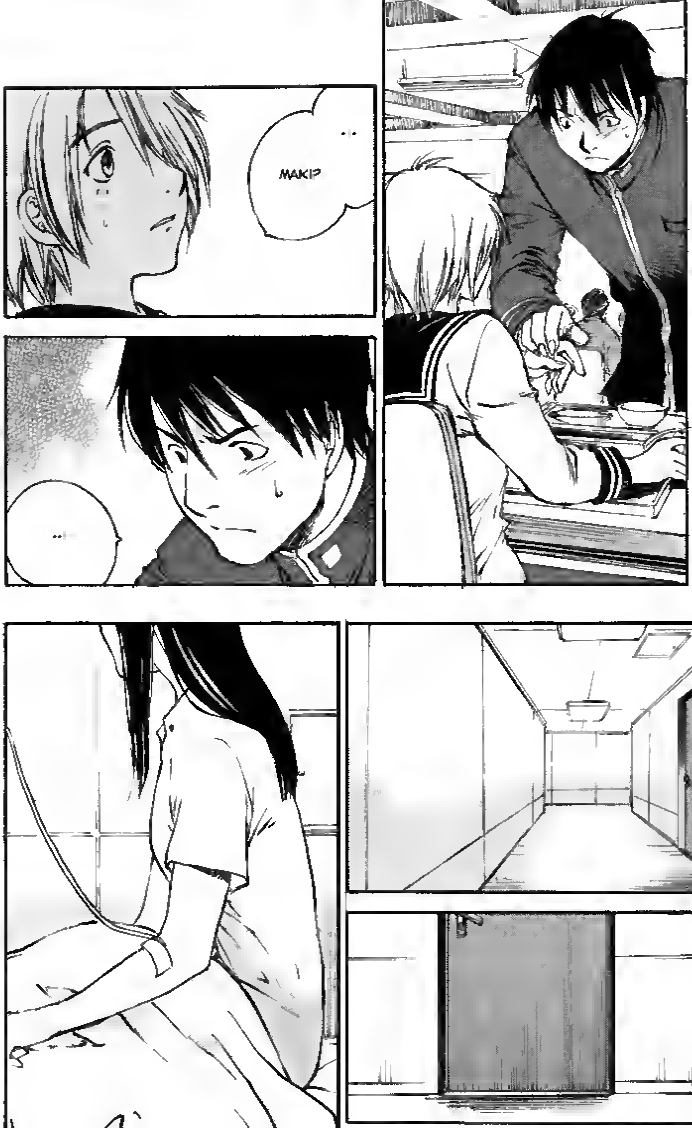
EVERYTHING STAYS THE SAME EVEN THOUGH ONE PERSON IS GONE.

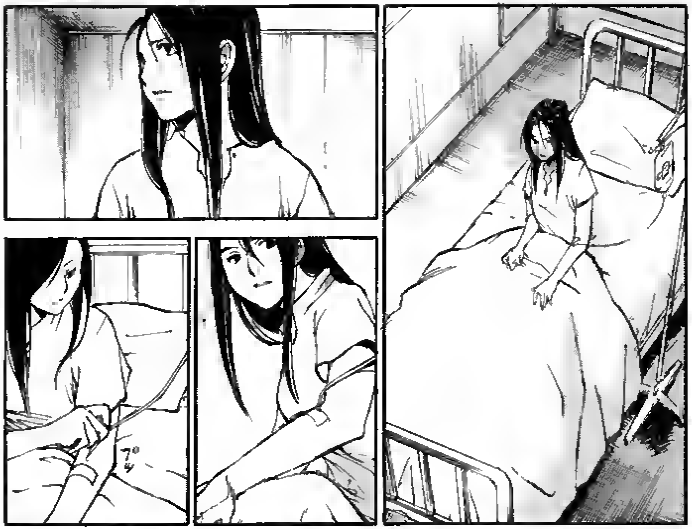

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEMED LOST IN THOUGHT
OH..
MAKI?
HOWEVER... IT'S CERTAINLY NOT THE FIRST TIME SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAS HAPPENED ...


YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THAT FOR A WHILE NOW.
EVEN RYO IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.


I COULDN'T TELL WHAT MADE THEM DIFFERENT UNTIL NOW.
BUT I UNDERSTAND AT LAST...
RYO, MEI AND NATSUME ...
... ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER STUDENTS.
TROUBLE IS, I CAN'T PUT IT IN WORDS.
RIGHT ...

WAS THAT WHAT WEIGHED ON YOUR MIND?
DON'T WORRY EVERY-THING'S ALL RIGHT NOW.
MEI ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK LAST NIGHT'S EXPLO-SIONS WERE?
OH, THAT?
THAT SURE WAS SCARY.
BUT THE TEACHERS SAID IT WAS NO BIG DEAL, JUST THE BOILER MAL-FUNCTIONING


...
MAKI?
...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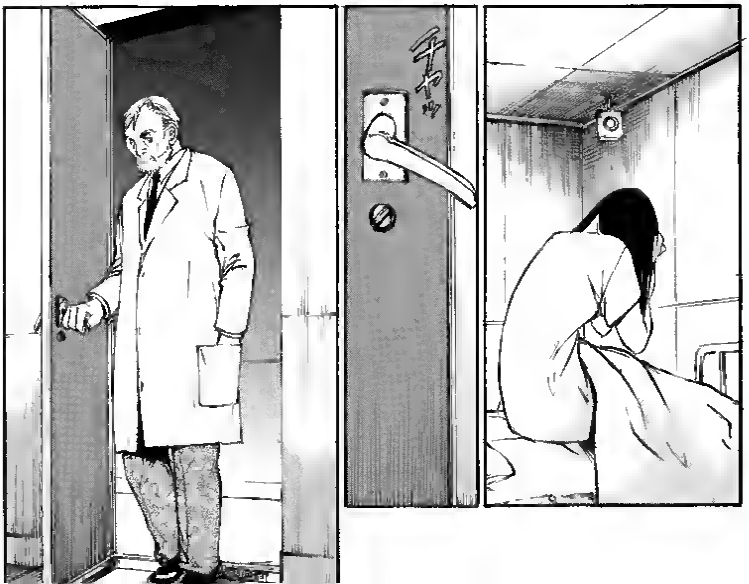
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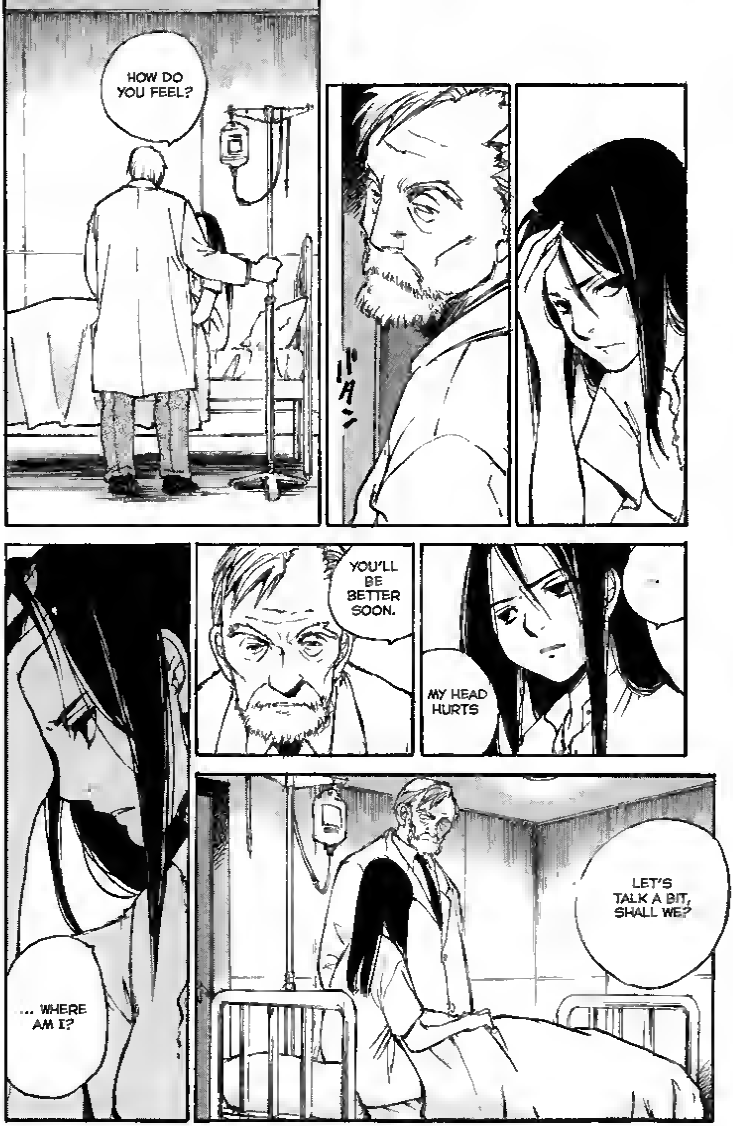
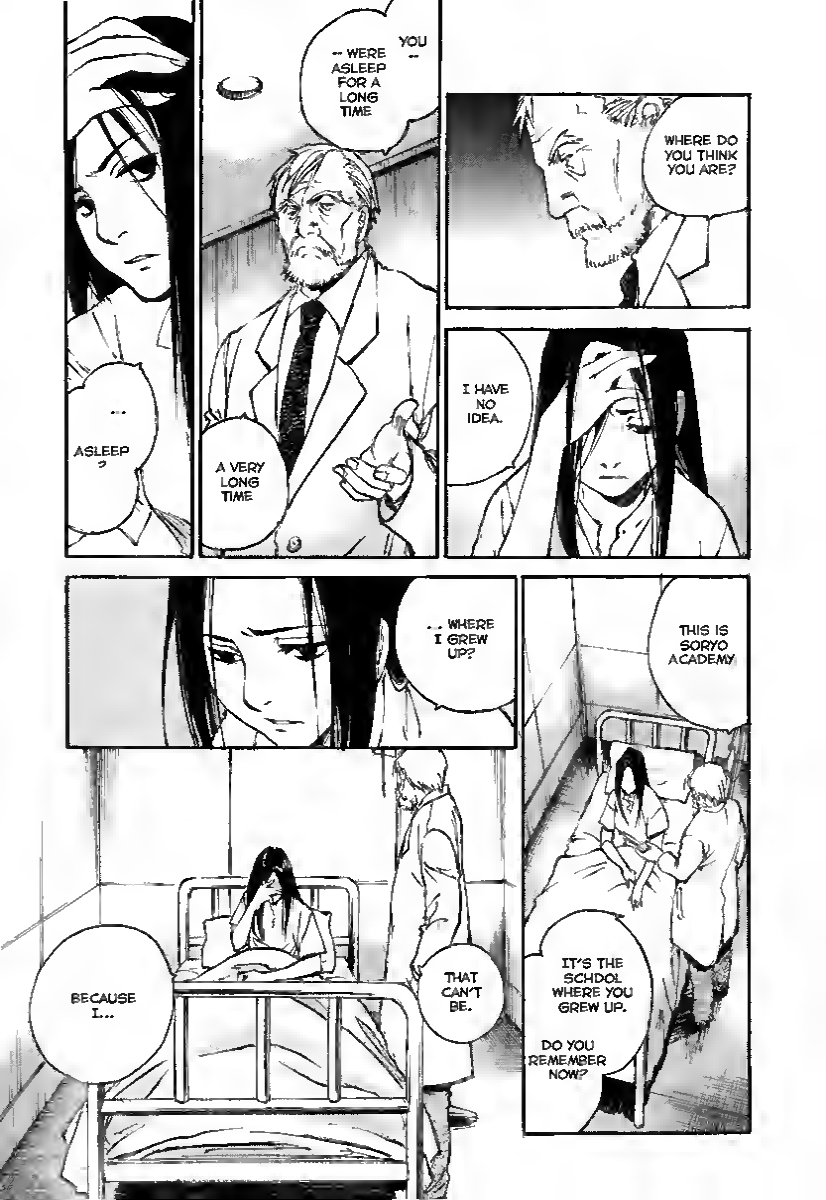
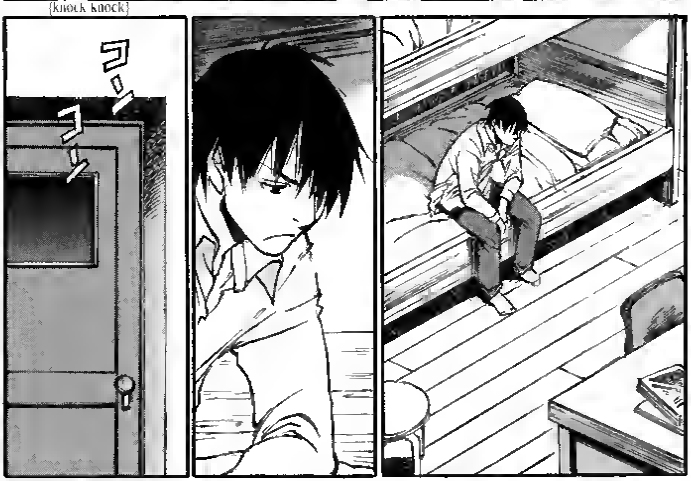

HOW DO YOU FEEL?
ドタン
YOU'LL BE BETTER SOON.
MY HEAD HURTS
... WHERE AM I?
LET'S TALK A BIT, SHALL WE?


YOU --
-- WERE ASLEEP FOR A LONG TIME
A VERY LONG TIME
...
ASLEEP ?
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
THIS IS SORYO ACADEMY
IT'S THE SCHOOL WHERE YOU GREW UP.
DO YOU REMEMBER NOW?
... WHERE I GREW UP?
THAT CAN'T BE.
BECAUSE I...

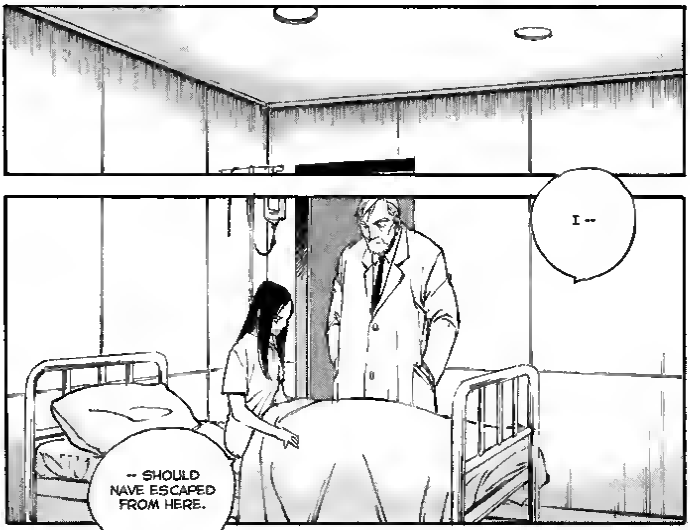
{knock knock}



TO BE FAIR, YOU REALLY HAVEN'T BEEN YOURSELF LATELY.
...
MEI SAID --
-- YOU WERE ACTING A BIT STRANGE, SO WE CAME TO SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING
WHAT HAPPENED?
...
IT'S ABOUT KIRIKO HINATSU, ISN'T IT?
SOMETHING YOU CAN'T TELL US?

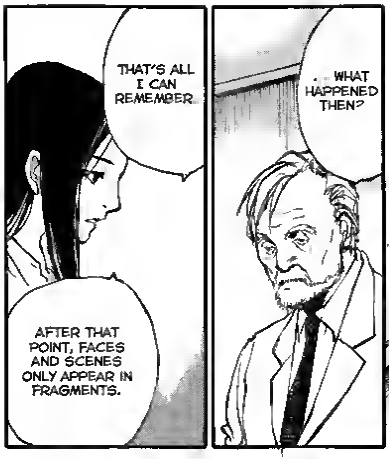
MAKI
..
NO, IT NEVER IS.
STOP HIDING IT FROM US!
SHE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS, DOESN'T SHE?
MY INTUITION IS NEVER WRONG.
WE, KIRIKO AND I --
-- WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR LAST NIGHT'S EXPLOSIONS.
WHAT IF OUR MEMORIES AND CONSCIOUSNESS ..
-- ARE BEING MANIPULATED BY A THIRD PARTY?

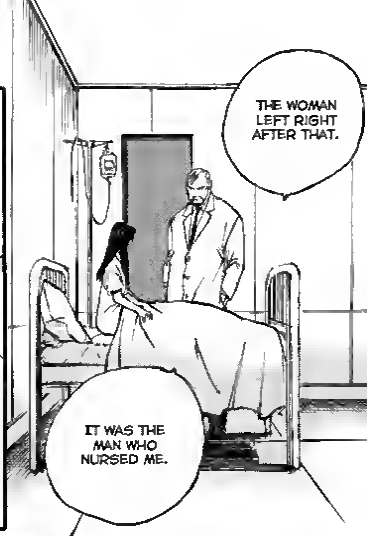
KIRIKO HINATSU WAS AT THIS SCHOOL A LONG TIME AGO—THAT I REMEMBERED.
STARTING FROM THERE, I REGAINED OTHER MEMORIES THAT I HAD FORGOTTEN.
EVEN THINGS I WASN'T ALLOWED TO RECALL.


I --
-- SHOULD NAVE ESCAPED FROM HERE.

I --
I'M SURE I DID
-- FLED FROM THIS SCHOOL WHEN I WAS A KID.
YOU WERE ASLEEP ALL THIS TIME.
..
I MEAN YOUR DREAM.
WOULD YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT?
A DREAM?
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN --
-- A LONG DREAM.

... IT WAS DARK ...
I WAS WALKING IN A DARK WOOD THE WHOLE NIGHT LONG. I WAS COLD AND SCARED.
WHEN DAWN CAME I SAW A ROAD AT THE END OF THE WOODS.
I FOLLOWED THAT ROAD AND REACHED A TOWN.
THERE WERE LONG ROWS OF HOUSES... I DRANK SOME WATER AT WHAT LOOKED LIKE A PUBLIC SQUARE..
AND THEN?
THAT'S WHERE MY MEMORIES BREAK UP...
NEXT THING I REALIZED, I WAS LYING ON A COUCH.
NEXT TO ME WERE A MAN AND A WOMAN.
MY BODY WAS BURNING AND I COULDN'T MOVE AS I WANTED..
I WAS PROBABLY SICK..


THAT'S ALL I CAN REMEMBER.
AFTER THAT POINT, FACES AND SCENES ONLY APPEAR IN FRAGMENTS.
. . . WHAT HAPPENED THEN?


THE WOMAN LEFT RIGHT AFTER THAT.
IT WAS THE MAN WHO NURSED ME.

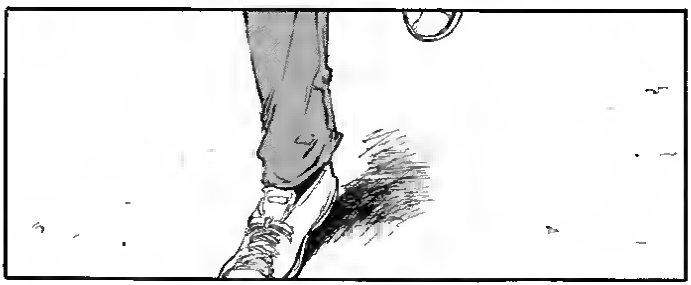
THOSE MEMORIES WERE SO VIVID
COULD THEY REALLY JUST HAVE BEEN PART OF A DREAM?

I SEE . . .

WHAT WAS THE MAN'S NAME?
HUH?
...
I ASSURE YOU IT WAS JUST A DREAM.
THOSE PEOPLE AND SCENES WEREN'T REAL. THEY WERE BUT FIGMENTS OF YOUR IMAGINATION.
WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
THE MAN WHO NURSED YOU. .
I CAN'T REMEMBER
...

Tokyo

KIRIN



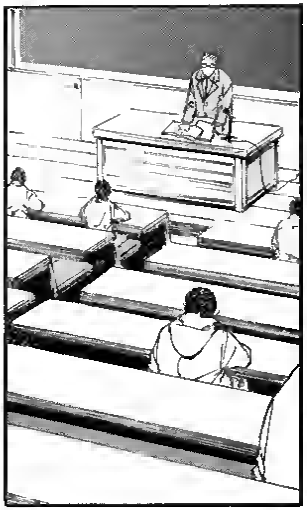
カンカン
バタン

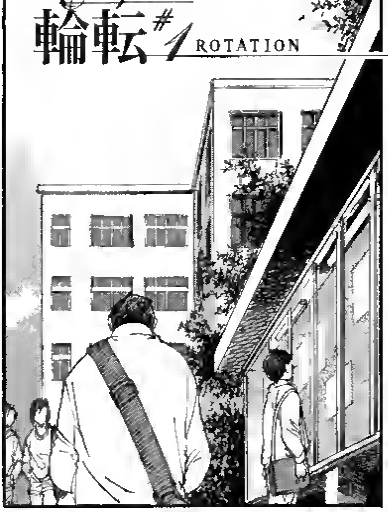
GOT SOME BEERS FOR YOU FROM MY FOLKS' STORE
HOW'S IT GOING?
YO!
NAGI.

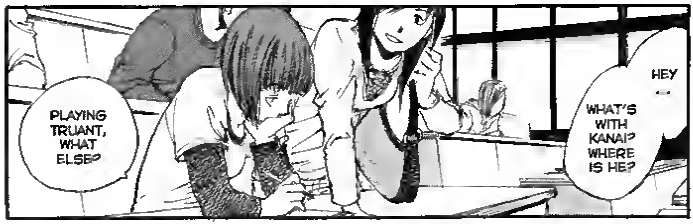
English version
NOMAD SOUL
Copy editing
EXEUNTSL

katanoha.monkey pirate.com

Chapter 2
輪転#1 ROTATION







THERE'S THIS STRANGE MAN THAT HE'S BECOME ATTACHED TO...
A NICE GUY, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING DANGEROUS ABOUT HIM.
I MEAN...
HE'S PROBABLY HANGING OUT AT HIS FRIEND'S PLACE.

WHAT IS IT?
YEAH...
YOU WANT SOME-THING?
WELL...

SO, I WONDERED IF...
I'M GONNA HAVE A LITTLE GET-TOGETHER -- WITH A FEW BUDDIES OF MINE TOMORROW.
HOW MANY YOU NEED?
ABOUT THREE BAGS.
ギッ!

YOU STUDENTS --
-- SHOULD REALLY GO EASY WITH THESE THINGS
ゴ!!

IDIOT! DON'T GIVE ME THAT NONSENSE
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH IT COSTS ME TO MAKE ONE BAG?
I KNOW, I KNOW.
WE ONLY USE YOUR STUFF, NAGI.
COME ON, I'M RENTING THIS APARTMENT TO YOU FOR A SONG.
ONE HAND WASHES THE OTHER, RIGHT?
HEY, IT'S MY OLD MAN'S, WHICH MEANS THAT IT'LL BE MINE ONE DAY.
DON'T GET SO WOUND UP IN THE DETAILS.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONE I'M RENTING IT FROM!
NO ...
BY THE WAY—
HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING FROM KIRIKO?

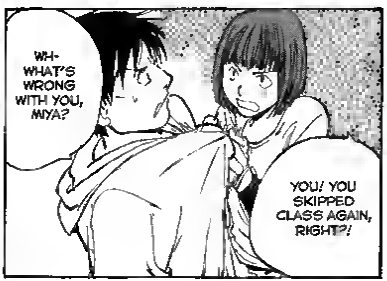
I DON'T KNOW, MAN..
IT'S YOUR FAULT SHE LEFT, ISN'T IT?

SHE LEFT OF HER OWN FREE WILL.
WE'RE NOT HER FAMILY TO BEGIN WITH WHAT SHE DOES IS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS.

YOU ALL RIGHT WITH THAT?
WITH WHAT?

AH! YOU GOT THIS STUFF FROM HIM AGAIN!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
HEY!!

AH! FOUND YOU! EXACTLY WHERE I THOUGHT YOU'D BE, YOICHIRO!
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!


WH-WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MIYA?
YOU! YOU SKIPPED CLASS AGAIN, RIGHT?!

SOONER OR LATER, THESE DRUGS WILL KILL YOU!
NO, THEY WON'T!! TECHNICALLY, THEY'RE STILL LEGAL. RIGHT, NAGI?
YEAH IT'S JUST A BLEND OF SEVERAL OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS.
IF YOU GUYS HAVE TO BICKER, DO IT OUTSIDE
AH! YOU'RE STILL HERE?!
WHAT? YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
WHAT'S WITH THIS RUCKUS?
チャリ
THE WALLS HERE ARE PRETTY THIN, SO I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD KEEP IT DOWN
OF COURSE I DO! AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE KIRIKO WON'T COME BACK.

SHE WAS THE ONE WHO LASHED OUT, NOT ME.
HOLD ON A MINUTE! YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS IF I DID SOMETHING WRONG!
BIG BROTHER?
WHY WAS SHE SO RILED UP OVER HER BIG BROTHER FINDING A GIRLFRIEND, ANYHOW?
LEAVING THIS PLACE WAS THAT GIRL'S OWN CHOICE.
DID YOU TELL HER KIRIKO WAS YOUR SISTER?
..
ISN'T SHE HIS SISTER?
IT'D HAVE BEEN A PAIN TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO HER.
IT WAS EASIER TO PRETEND SHE WAS MY SISTER.
WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY.
I'M OFF TO WORK.

NO, OF COURSE NOT...
I THINK OF HER AS MY SISTER.
WHY? WHY DO YOU *ALWAYS* HAVE TO DO THINGS THAT RUB KIRIKO THE WRONG WAY?
WAS SHE REALLY THAT ANNOYING?
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT THAT WOMAN HERE.
STILL ...
THIS IS *MY* APARTMENT.
NOW *THAT'S* CRUEL ...
...
[SLAM!]

"HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO SEARCH YOUR MEMORY FOR THINGS THAT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO?"
YOU SHOULD NOTICE THAT THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN'T RECALL EVEN IF YOU WANT TO.

THIS SCHOOL'S STUDENTS ARE LIKE SIBLINGS WHO GREW UP TOGETHER, RIGHT?
TO CITE AN EXAMPLE. TRY TO RECALL A CLASSMATE'S PAST LOOKS --
-- OR WHAT YOU USED TO DO FOR FUN--IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHAT IT IS.
MY MEMORIES OF KIRIKO HINATSU FINALLY CAME BACK.
NOT ONLY THAT...
I ALSO CAME TO REMEMBER THE OTHER STUDENTS WHO DISAP-PEARED...
...

小説メのオチん42
1. Natsume, your novel sucks!
WHILE YOU'RE TELLING YOURSELF THAT HE OR SHE IS ABSENT BECAUSE OF ILLNESS OR SOMETHING --
-- YOU'LL SOON EVEN FORGET THAT THERE HAS EVER BEEN SUCH A PERSON.
EVEN IF SOMEONE YOU SPOKE TO YESTERDAY SUDDENLY STOPS COMING TO CLASS ONE DAY ---
--- NOBODY WILL SAY ANYTHING. THAT'S NORMAL.

WE FORGOT KIRIKO HINATSU IN THE SAME WAY.
THERE WERE OTHER STUDENTS WHO DISAP-PEARED LIKE THAT.

MS. OTAKI . .
I MIGHT NEED SOME PILLS, AFTER ALL.

IT'S ---
OUCH!?

BEFORE I MET KIRIKO, I ALREADY HARBORED THE INDESCRIBABLE FEELING THAT SOMETHING WAS NOT RIGHT WITH THIS SCHOOL.
I THINK I NOW KNOW WHAT THAT SOME-THING IS.

CRUD.

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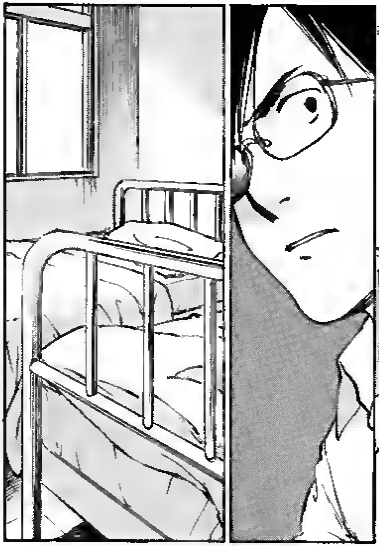
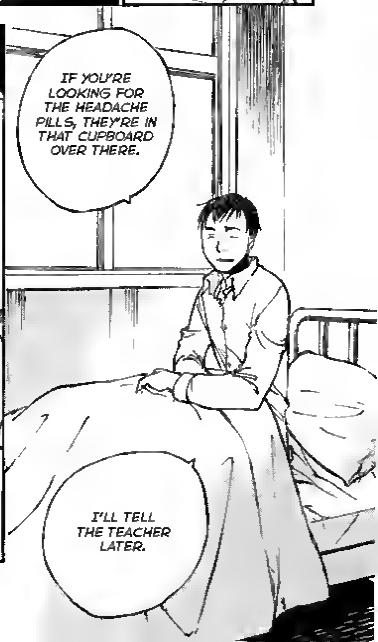
ッ

SHE'S OUT.

!




IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE HEADACHE PILLS, THEY'RE IN THAT CUPBOARD OVER THERE.
I'LL TELL THE TEACHER LATER.

ガラ
EXCUSE ME.
RYO?
...
MS. OTAKI IS NOT IN, HUH
I JUST WANTED TO ASK HER FOR SOME PILLS.
HUH?
WHAT MAKI SAID MAY BE TRUE.
...
WHAT'S WRONG?

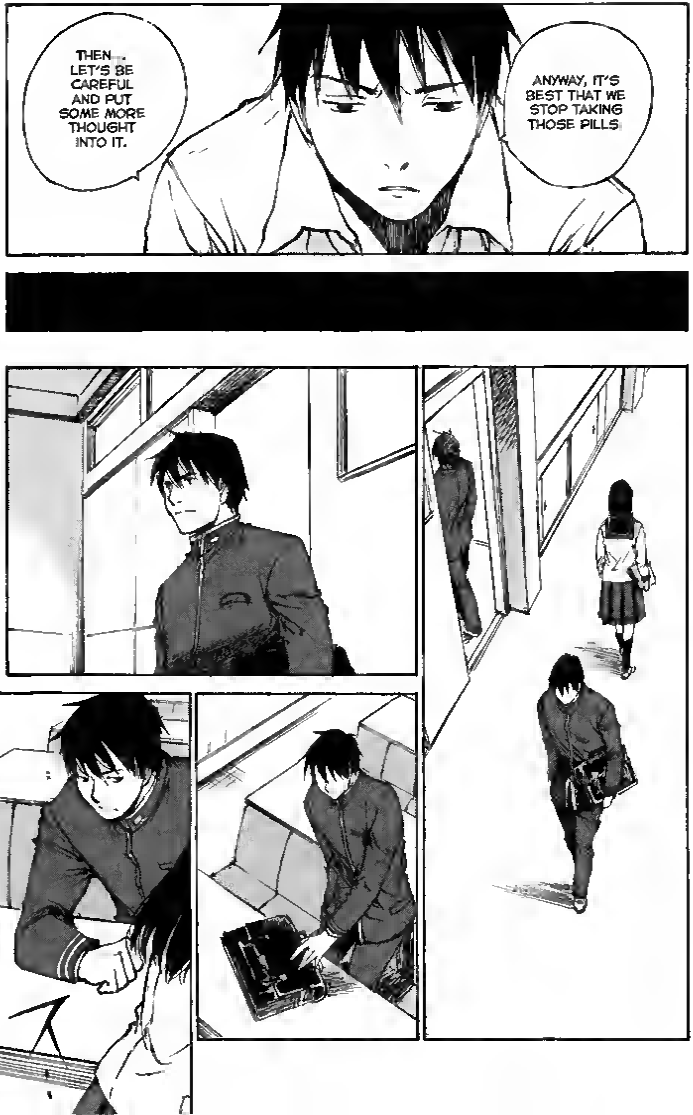
IS THAT ALL INFORMATION YOU COULD ELICIT FROM HER?
I SUPPOSE --
AFTER THAT PARTICULAR POINT, SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE MEMORIES OF HER OWN PERSON.
YES.
-- HER SUB-CONSCIOUS IS BLOCKING THEM.
IF YOU INSIST, THERE ARE OTHER DRUGS THAT WE CAN USE.

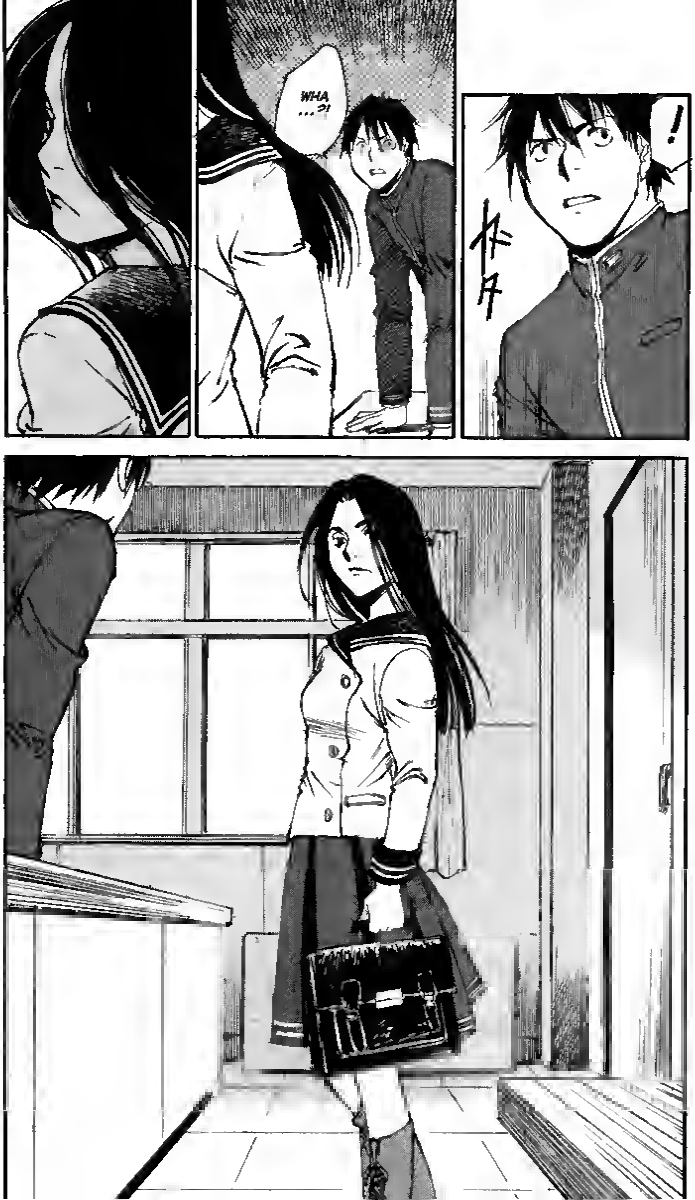
OF COURSE
SHE'S A VALUABLE HOSTAGE FOR US
THERE'S NO POINT IN KILLING HER
NO
KEEP IN MIND THAT SHE'S NOT LIKE THE OTHER STUDENTS
KEEP HER UNDER CONTROL. I WANT YOU TO SEND HER BACK TO CLASS
HOWEVER, SHE COULD PUT US IN AN AWKWARD SITUATION BY CAUSING ANOTHER INCIDENT
AS YOU WISH.

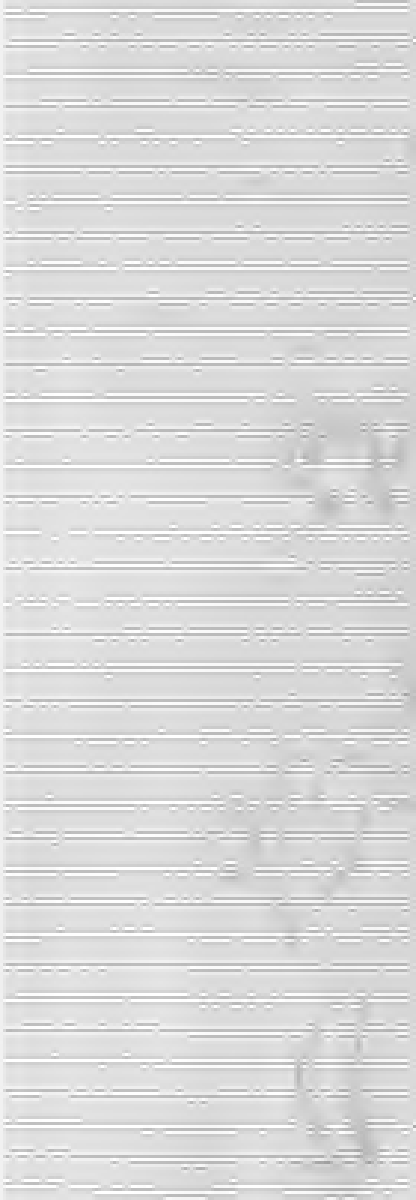
カチャ
カチャ
ドン！

I HAPPENED UPON IT A LITTLE WHILE BACK ..
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT EVER SINCE --
-- BUT I STILL CAN'T REMEMBER --
-- WHO WROTE THAT SCRIBBLE.
SAME HERE THOUGH I CAN'T REMEMBER THINGS CLEARLY --
-- I SOMETIMES FIND SOMETHING LIKE A TRACE IN THE CORNERS OF MY MEMORY...
THAT BOY, HE MUST'VE BEEN IN THE SAME GRADE AS ME --
-- BUT I CAN'T EVEN RECALL HIS NAME.

THIS WHOLE THING SCARES ME
THE OTHERS, DON'T THEY FEEL ANYTHING?
IT'S AN EMOTION YOU ONLY REALIZE AFTER YOU CAST IT INTO WORDS.
AND WE HAD NO NEED TO DO THAT UNTIL NOW.
THOSE THINGS HAVE BEEN THERE --
-- FOR A LONG TIME, I JUST DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY WERE.
IF KIRIKO HINATSU SAID THE TRUTH --
-- WE CAN'T TRUST ANYTHING ANYMORE.
..
WE MAY INDEED BE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER STUDENTS.
I DON'T KNOW...
BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE.
WE'RE NOT INDIFFERENT --
-- TOWARD EACH OTHER.


THEN... LET'S BE CAREFUL AND PUT SOME MORE THOUGHT INTO IT.
ANYWAY, IT'S BEST THAT WE STOP TAKING THOSE PILLS.


WHA ...?
!

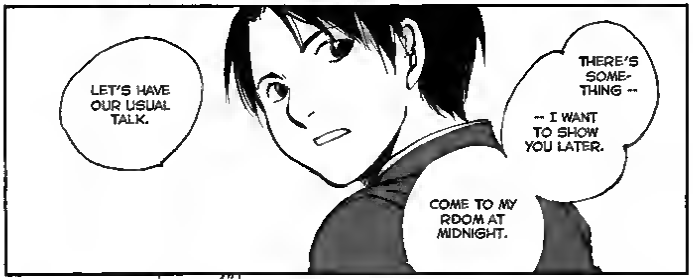


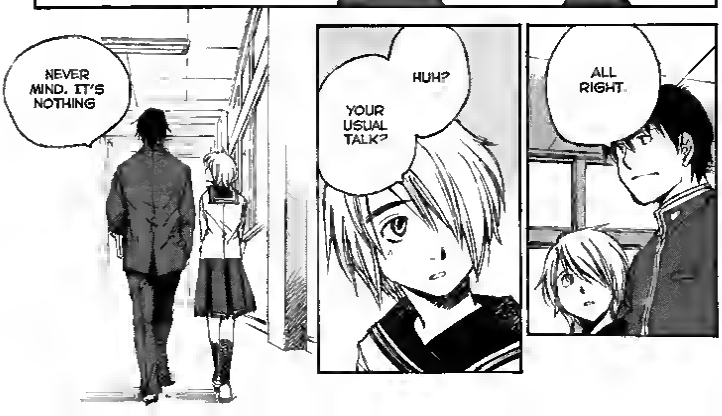
Chapter 2
輪転
ROTATION
その2

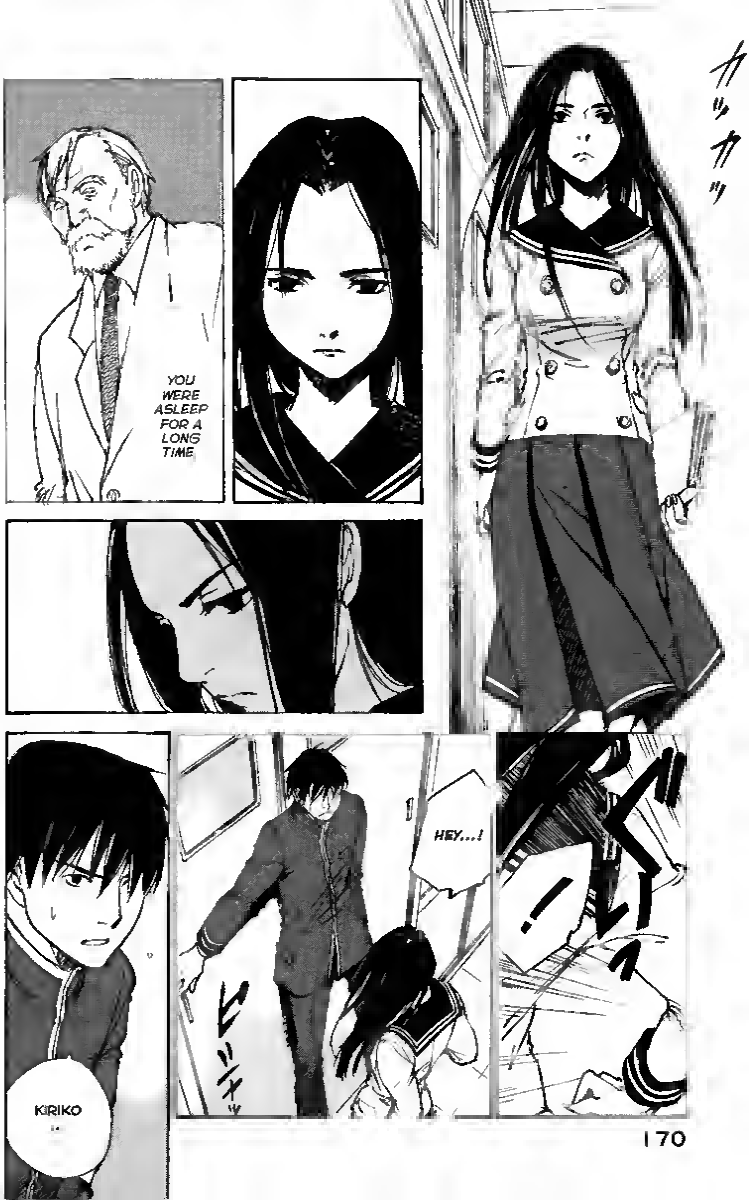
KI--!
?
RYO...

BUT
DON'T BE TOO HASTY/ LET'S WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS FIRST.
THINK ABOUT IT/ SHE'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE ESCAPED HER BEING HERE MEANS THAT SOME-THING WENT WRONG
THEY HAVE YET TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR COMPLICITY
I'M SURE SHE'S BEING KEPT UNDER SURVEIL-LANCE.
STAY AWAY FROM HER.
..

LOOKS LIKE MY NEXT LESSON WILL LAST LONGER, SO DON'T WAIT FOR ME. GO AHEAD AND EAT LUNCH WITHOUT ME.
OKAY
MAKI!


LET'S HAVE OUR USUAL TALK.
THERE'S SOME-THING --
-- I WANT TO SHOW YOU LATER.
COME TO MY ROOM AT MIDNIGHT.


NEVER MIND. IT'S NOTHING
HUH?
YOUR USUAL TALK?
ALL RIGHT.


カッカッ
YOU WERE ASLEEP FOR A LONG TIME.
HEY...!
KIRIKO

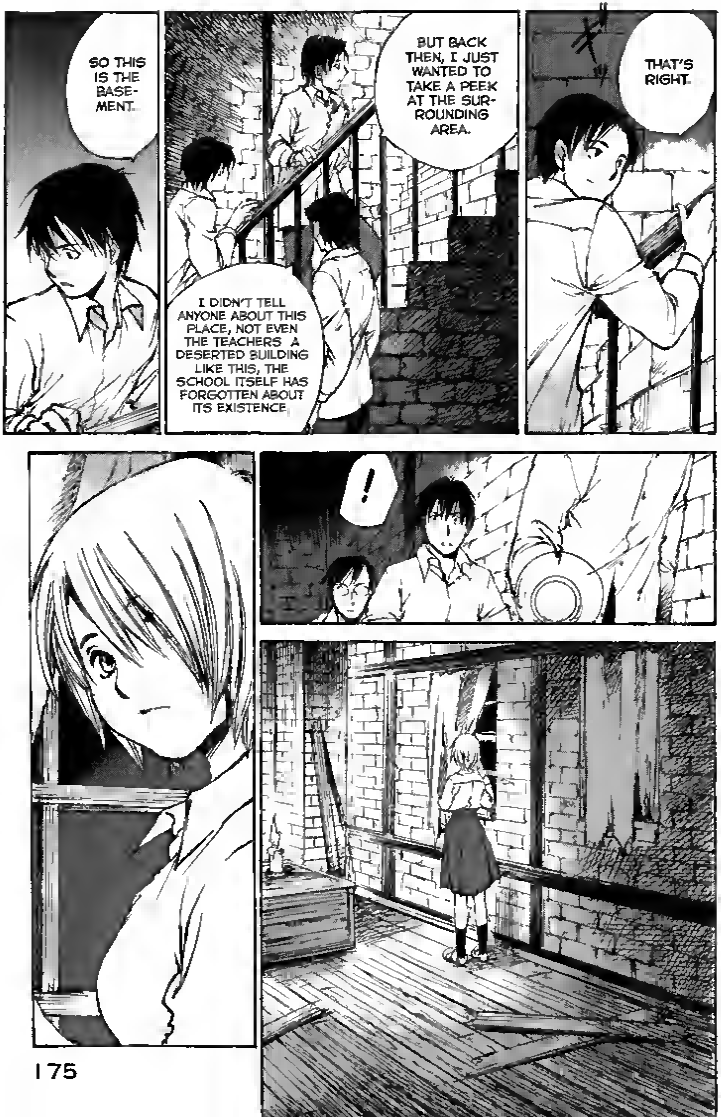
KI ..
WHAT HAPPENED ?
WHY DID YOU COME BACK?
...
...
AH!

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SHOW US?
ISN'T THIS THE BOILER ROOM?
WELL, YES...
SOME-ONE --
-- LEFT THE KEY IN THE LOCK.
I GUESS ONE OF THE STAFFERS WAS CARELESS.
THAT'S WHEN I FOUND IT
カチャ
WHY... WHY DO YOU HAVE THE KEY TO THIS ROOM?

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WATCH OUT, THERE ARE STAIRS.
IT'S AN UNDER-GROUND PASSAGE.
A SEPARATE BUILDING ON THE NORTH SIDE?
IT CONTIN-UES TO A SEPARATE BUILDING ON THE SCHOOL'S NORTH SIDE.
THE PASSAGE SEEMS TO BE NO LONGER IN USE.
ITS CON-STRUCTION SUGGESTS THAT IT'S OLDER THAN THE SCHOOL ITSELF.
I CAN'T TELL WHAT FUNCTION IT USED TO SERVE.
I HAD NO IDEA THAT THERE WAS SUCH A BUILDING, EITHER.

ギッ

WOW...
I'VE NEVER SEEN A BRICK BUILDING BEFORE
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
I WANTED TO...
BUT I SCREWED UP...
OH...
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU ESCAPED FROM THE LAST TIME?


SO THIS IS THE BASE-MENT.
I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS PLACE, NOT EVEN THE TEACHERS. A DESERTED BUILDING LIKE THIS, THE SCHOOL ITSELF HAS FORGOTTEN ABOUT ITS EXISTENCE.
BUT BACK THEN, I JUST WANTED TO TAKE A PEEK AT THE SUR-ROUNDING AREA.
THAT'S RIGHT.
!

I INVITED HER.
M.. MEI...
I ASKED NATSUME.
I HAD TO...
NEITHER MAKI NOR RYO WOULD TELL ME ANYTHING
I WAS WAITING FOR THE RIGHT TIME TO TELL YOU.
IS THAT ABNORMAL? HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK.
NATSUME'S TOLD ME THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS.
WE DIDN'T WANT TO DISTURB YOU, THAT'S WHY.
ISN'T IT POSSIBLE KIRIKO LIED TO MAKI TO GET HIM TO HELP HER?
I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I CAN'T RECALL CERTAIN THINGS OR MY MEMORIES TURN UP VAGUE AND CONFUSING

YOU CAN SEE THE SCHOOL IN THE DISTANCE.
WE'RE IN THE WOODS ON THE NORTH SIDE.
IF YOU SAY IT'S TRUE --
-- I'LL BELIEVE YOU, MAKI
THAT ..
BUT ..

YOU'VE GOT A POINT..
IS IT POSSIBLE TO USE THE PASSAGE TO ESCAPE?
HMM.. THEN HOW COME THERE'S AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE LEADING TO OUR SCHOOL?
I GUESS THAT PUTS US BEHIND BIG BROTHER'S BACK.
SINCE THE SCHOOL SITE WAS ORIGINALLY A PROPERTY DISPOSED OF BY THE US MILITARY, I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT THIS BUILDING IS A RELICT FROM THOSE DAYS.
ANY IDEA WHAT THEY COULD'VE USED THIS BUILDING FOR?

THE STUDENTS WHO DISAPPEARED...
DID THEY RUN AWAY, TOO?
EVEN IF WE DECIDE TO RUN AWAY FROM HERE, IT WON'T BE EASY UNLESS WE HAVE A GOOD PLAN.
I DON'T KNOW...
BUT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN OTHER STUDENTS LIKE US WHO REALIZED WHAT'S GOING ON
NEITHER DO WE...
WE HAVE NO MEANS TO CONFIRM WHAT'S TRUE AND WHAT'S NOT, EITHER.
...
I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH.
HOWEVER, IT'S A FACT THAT WE HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT OUR PAST, WHICH WE ONLY REMEMBER BITS AND PIECES OF.
LEARNING SO MANY NEW THINGS IN SUCH A SHORT TIME MAKES MY HEAD SPIN.
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO ASK KIRIKO, AFTER ALL.
I WISH WE HAD MORE INFORMATION
THE SCHOOL ONLY FEEDS US INFORMATION THAT IS CONVENIENT TO THEM.
THE GIRL IS MARKED
IT'S DANGEROUS TO MAKE CONTACT WITH HER.
I ASKED HER, BUT SHE DIDN'T GIVE ME ANY ANSWERS.
YOU TALKED TO HER?!
I WAS CAREFUL.
I JUST COULDN'T HELP IT. I *WANTED* TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED . .
BUT SHE WAS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE.
SHE STARED AT ME WITH THOSE VACANT EYES --
-- AS IF I WERE SOME STRANGER....

I ATTEMPTED AN ESCAPE, TOO.
BUT I ONLY GOT A LITTLE LECTURE FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND A STAY IN THE REFLECTION ROOM, SO WHY...?
I SUPPOSE THEY'VE TAMPERED WITH HER MEMORY..
SHE CAUSED A BIG COMMOTION. ON TOP OF THAT, SHE'S GOT PRIORS.
I'M NOT SURE THOSE ARE THE ONLY REASONS, THOUGH..
I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT I FELT SOMETHING WHEN I PASSED BY KIRIKO IN THE HALLWAY, RIGHT?
DO YOU THINK --
-- SHE'LL EVER BECOME HERSELF AGAIN?

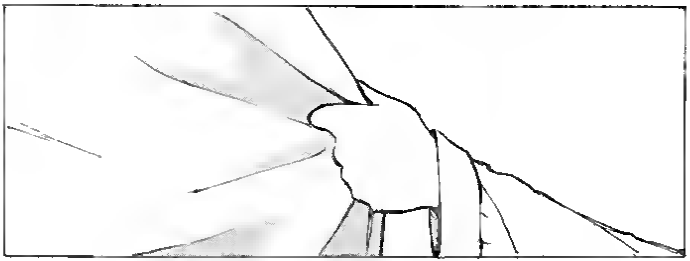
EVEN IF THEY ERASED HER MEMORY --
-- HER PERSONALITY MIGHT STILL BE INTACT--WHICH MEANS THAT WITH THE RIGHT TRIGGER, SHE CAN BECOME NORMAL AGAIN
I THINK THAT MAYBE --
-- IT WAS A HINT THAT SHE WILL DO SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT
HOW DO WE RETURN HER TO HER NORMAL SELF?
..
WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE TRY -- I'LL DO IT!
WE NEED HER

IT'S BEEN A WHILE
THINGS ARE GETTING HARDER EVERY DAY.
I'M THINKING ABOUT MOVING SOMEPLACE ELSE SOON, TOO.
MAN. THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE CHANGED MUCH..
YOU'LL BE MISSED.
I SEE YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.
NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT. A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE COME AND GONE.

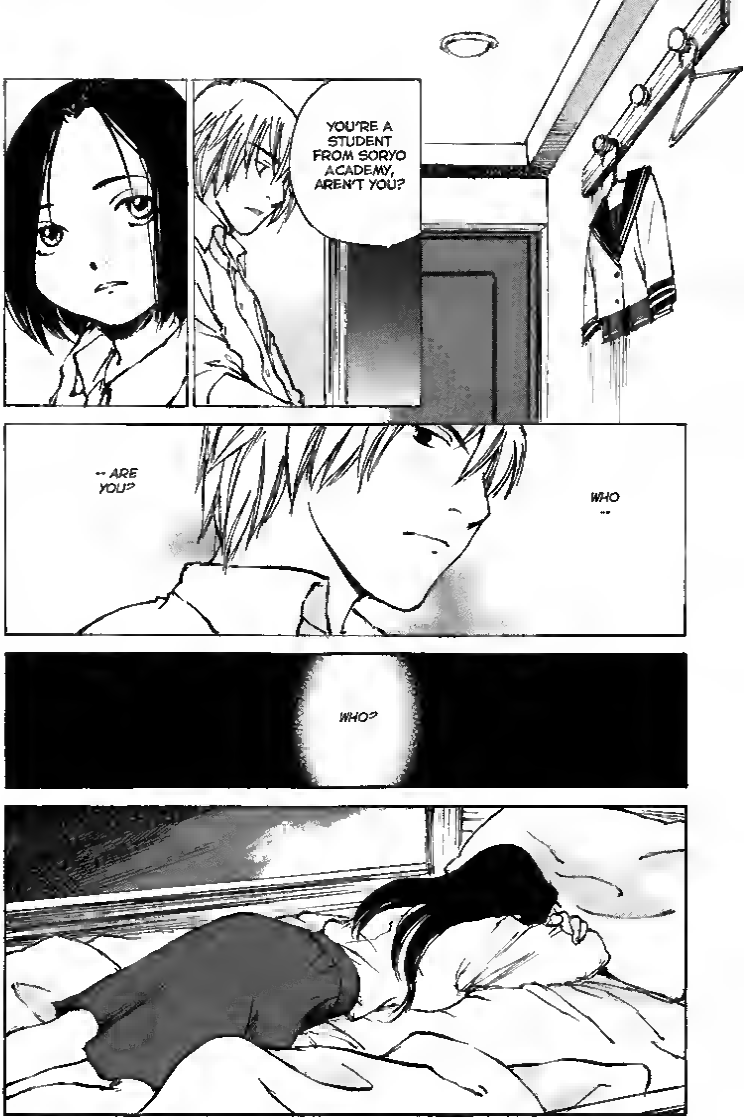
ALL I DO RIGHT NOW IS SWINDLE POCKET MONEY OUT OF PAMPERED BRATS WITH "BABY SNACKS."
I'M A HERMIT IN THE FIRST PLACE. I CAN DO WITHOUT ANYTHING FANCY.
NAH, THANK YOU. IT'S TOO MUCH OF A HASSLE.
STOP WASTING YOUR TIME ON AMATEURS. YOU SHOULD GO BIG WITH THAT BUSINESS OF YOURS.
THERE MUST BE COUNTLESS PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO HUNGER FOR YOUR ORIGINAL "KIRIKO."
APPARENTLY, SHE AND A FEW OTHER GIRLS WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE POLICE TWO MONTHS AGO.
BY THE WAY, I LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR GIRL KIRIKO.
I SEE ...
HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO ONE OF HER FRIENDS, KIRIKO WAS TAKEN SOMEWHERE ELSE.
SINCE ALL OF THEM WERE MINORS, THEY WERE RELEASED ON THE SAME DAY.

I MIGHT NEED MONEY.
I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN.

H-HEY... IS THAT ALL YOU GOT TO SAY?



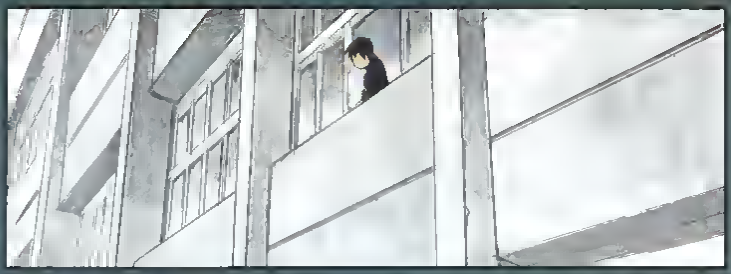
...
WHERE AM I?
...
YOU'RE UP, HUH.
MY HOUSE ...
WELL, ACTUALLY, I'M JUST LIVING HERE...
YOU'LL GET SOMETHING TO EAT WHEN THE LANDLADY COMES BACK...
I'LL MAKE SOMETHING TO DRINK. GO SLEEP A BIT MORE.


YOU'RE A STUDENT FROM SORYO ACADEMY, AREN'T YOU?
-- ARE YOU?
WHO --
WHO?

ハツカネズミの時間

新連載!!

Kei Tôme 冬目景



見なれた風景、いつもの生活。そんな日常が崩壊していく。

冬目景 待望の新作。
月イチ連載スタート!!
僕たちはここから、
自由という出口に向かって
走り始める。
迷路で走り続ける
ハツカネズミのように。
高野 槙
新山 椋
園倉 茗
室樹 棗
Kei Toyume
冬目景
ハツカネズミの時間
chapter1 始動 #1

文庫「黒鉄」1 絶賛発売中。

カラーピンナップ&オリジナルデザインカット&新人漫画賞受賞作53ページ（「黒鉄」第一話）など、盛りだくさんの内容です。

飼いならされた
ペットのように、
僕らは学園に
守(たくず)んでいる。

月イチ連載

ハツカネズミの時間

chapter1 波紋 #3

冬目景
Kei Toume

すべての意志が消えた
氷夏桐子の瞳。
ハツカネズミの時間
冬目景
Kei Tome
chapter2 輪転 #8